

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH
THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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THE WORTH OF A MAN

By: C. D. Cole

Introduction: What is man? A human being considered apart from any material possession or his ability to produce anything that is material. In times of peace the government looks upon him as a worthless being and hands him a mere pittance that will barely keep his soul and body together. In times of war he is regarded by his government as suitable only for cannon fodder. In this day of class hatred and party strife a man's worth depends upon his contribution to the success of a party or class. In the eyes of capitalists a man's worth is measured by the profit reaped from his labor. Matthew 8:28-34, *“And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go, And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in*

the waters. And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.” They valued hogs above the welfare of men. The government values money above men when it legalizes the sale of beer and whiskey. In principle it might as well legalize murder with a shotgun as with whiskey.

The Bible declares that man is of great value. Matthew 10:29-31, *“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.”* Matthew 12:11-12, *“And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep?...”* His soul is more valuable than all the world. Matthew 16:24-26, *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever*

will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Christ came into this world on a recovery campaign for men. In this campaign the resources of heaven and the power of God were employed.

WHAT DETERMINES THE VALUE OF A MAN?

Why is man so valuable? In what does his worth consist? We will answer both negatively and positively.

NEGATIVELY:

It is not in his moral condition. He is morally corrupt; a hater of God, unable to please God. Romans 8:7, *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”*

It is not in his physical condition. Man's condition physically is bad. These bodies are vile and troublesome. Delicate machines, repair bill is heavy, parts wearing out. A picture of life and death, Ecclesiastes 12:1-7, *“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, [you are young] while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; [getting older] While the sun, or the*

light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: [eye sight getting bad] In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, [hands] and the strong men shall bow themselves, [back is stooped] and the grinders cease because they are few, [teeth] and those that look out of the windows be darkened, [eyes] And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, [ears] and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, [can't sleep] and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low; [hearing] Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, [heights] and fears shall be in the way, [nerves] and the almond tree shall flourish, [hair] and the grasshopper shall be a burden, [walk] and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, [death] and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

It is not in his spiritual condition. Ephesians 2:1-3, "*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*" He is ignorant of the things of God. Romans 10:3, "*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted them-*

selves unto the righteousness of God."

It is not in his financial condition. Luke 12:13-15, "*And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed; and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.*" It is not a man's money that causes heaven's interest in him. A man's money makes no appeal to God. It is a dead intercessor. The Lord Jesus specialized in saving the poor. In His first public sermon, Luke 4:18, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*" Matthew 11:2-5, "*Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them."*

POSITIVELY:

Genesis 1:27, "*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*" Man has a natural kinship to God that is not true of any other creature. God is a trinity; God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; even so man has a body, soul, and spirit. This is not true of angels.

Man is a deathless being. The soul of man shall never die. The Bible speaks of God's people as being asleep instead of dead. I Thessalonians 4:13-17, "*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*" Even so, we read about the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:22-24, "*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."*

Because of the possibilities of grace; there is no inherent worth in man. He is worth only what grace makes him worth. Ephesians 2:8, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*" The apostle Paul speaking in I Corinthians 15:10, "*But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they*

all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." Why does a sculptor select a piece of marble for a monument? It is not because that piece of marble in its natural state would be suitable for a monument, but because of what the sculptor designed to make out of it. Grace takes ugly, fallen man and fashions him into such a beautiful being as to make him fit for companionship with God and angels. What is the value of that piece of carbon yonder in the bowels of the earth in South Africa or India? None except in the possibilities of being mined and cut into a beautiful diamond to adorn the finger of my lady. So man morally speaking is a rough piece of marble or a piece of carbon lying in the depths of moral ruin until mined and fashioned into a precious stone to adorn the finger of God. Malachi 3:17, "*And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*"

Because of the capacity to suffer man has mental agony. Before the apostle Paul was saved, Acts 8:1,3, "*And Saul was consenting unto his death. [Stephen's] And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem: ...As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.*" Matthew 27:26, "*...and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.*"

MAN'S VALUE

DOES NOT DEPEND UPON...

What he is worth to God. If man adds to God's wealth, then God was poor before He made man.

What he is worth to his fellow-man. We are not to be interested in

man mainly for what they can do for us.

MAN'S VALUE IS DETERMINED:

1. By his nature of being. Man is better than the sparrow or sheep because he is made in the image of God; not animal, a higher order of creation. Genesis 1:27, "*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*"

2. By capacity for enjoyment. Psalm 8:1-9, "*O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little*

lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

3. By his needs: **Temporal.** Luke 10:20-21, "*Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.*" **Eternal.** Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"

TAKING A LOOK BACK

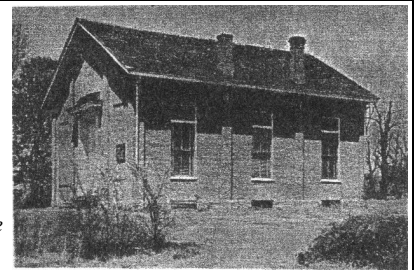
From BSBC church minutes:

At a Church meeting held at the meeting house at Bryan's Third Saturday in October, 1788. The church agreed to give Brother Jacob Roades a letter of Dismissal on his request to join the Church on Cooper's Run. Recd. Into fellowship Catherine Sharpe for Baptism. The Church have appointed Bro. Ambrose Dudley, Henry Roach, John Mason and Leonard Young to Represent us in the Depending Association at the meeting house at Clear Creek. Then adjourned till meeting in Course. A. Dudley, Mdr., J. Mason, Clk.

At a Church meeting held at the meeting house at Bryan's Third Saturday in November, 1788. Recd. Elizabeth Foster, John Bridges and Nancy Bridges by letter and examination and John Ellis for Baptism and Bro. Farrer's Negro woman Jenney for Ditto, and Bro. Boswell's Negro Man Simon for Do. On a motion made for more Deacons to be appointed the Church have nominated Several Men for Consideration till next monthly meeting. Then adjourned till meeting in Course. A. Dudley, Mdr., J. Mason, Clk.

At a Church meeting held at the Schoolhouse near Benjamin Hailey third Saturday in December 1788. The Church took under Consideration a motion made last Church meeting for more Deacons to be appointed to Serve this Church have unanimously Chose our Brethren Benjamin Robinson and Samuel Bryan to that office, and refered their Ordination till our next monthly meeting. Recd. For Baptism Reubin Macdonald. Then adjourned till meeting in Course. A. Dudley, Mdr., J. Mason, Clk.

Sunday 18th of January. The Church agreeable to appointment met and accordingly set apart our Brethren Benj. Robinson and Samuel Bryan by ordination for the office of Deacons. John Mason Clk.



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<i>Doctrine Of Election</i>	1.75	1.50	<i>The Trail of Blood (English)</i>	1.75	1.50
Pocket-size	.50	.50	<i>The Trail of Blood (Spanish)</i>	1.75	1.50
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<i>Divine Order of the Sexes</i>	.75	.50	<i>All Blood Bought Believers</i>	1.50	1.25
<i>Eternal Punishment</i>	1.25	1.00	Other books		
Books by H. Boyce Taylor			<i>Courtship of Jesus – M. W. Hall</i>	6.00	5.00
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<i>Studies in Romans</i>	3.50	2.50	<i>Fully After The Lord – Steve Flinchum</i>	6.00	5.00
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<i>Acts of the Apostles</i>	3.50	1.00	–Various Authors	5.00	4.00
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<i>Following Holiness</i>	1.50	1.25	<i>of the Beard – Jesse Powell</i>	1.50	1.25
<i>Better Than The Angels</i>	5.00	4.00	<i>BSBC: Our History/Heritage</i>		
<i>Love Builds Up</i>	4.00	3.00	– Various Authors	5.00	4.00
Books by Mark W. Fenison			<i>God's Astounding Grace</i>		
<i>Baptist Women Exalted</i>	3.00	2.50	– D. Scott Meadows	1.75	1.50
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 Don Waltermire, Assistant Pastor

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:
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Sunday Morning Worship—11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship—6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service—7 p.m.

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