Value the Truth Above All!

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God's full Truth is valuable beyond everything else because His Truth includes eternal life in Heaven forever! The spiritual *value* of knowing this eternal *Truth* is beyond anything of temporary value on earth. Continuing to live *within* this Truth is our main concern—it is to take *priority* over every other interest and over any other information we could seek.

The world seeks many things, but we are told to Matthew 6:33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." Seeking His kingdom and righteousness is knowing and valuing His Truth—and living it every day. No one can be wrong about Heaven—we only get one chance to get it right.

Valuing God's Truth is living it every day. Jesus said John 8:31-32 "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"—we are made over and free from sins of the past; delivered from wrong attitudes; released from Satan's influence; and liberated from wrong values we placed on wrong things.

We are *delivered* from them, when we *confess* them, and then *forsake* them with God's help. The spiritual *value* of being made over and free of a *sin nature*—having it replaced with a *divine nature*—is beyond computing in worth.

The *value* we put on *things* reveals who or what controls our *heart*. The *world's* values are

opposite to *God's* values, because the *sin nature* is opposite to the *divine nature*. Satan controls the *unbelieving* world, but God controls the *believing* Christian—their value systems are opposite. What the world thinks is of *great worth* God says is of *no value*.

The Pharisees were controlled by the sin nature and rejected divine Truth. Jesus gave them the Truth on finances—He said people will Luke 16:13-15 "Be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He told them, 'You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is [an abomination] in God's sight.'"

Pharisees were *decent* outwardly but *corrupt* inwardly. Jesus taught on financial trust, but they would *not* accept that Truth. Satan deceives *millions* to *profess faith* in God, but not *act in faith* on God. Most people do *not* practice the Word, *nor* live by God's Truth, because they do *not* want to trust God in faith for *money*; *healing*; or *anything*.

Millions profess faith in Christ today but are like the Pharisees of that day—putting no value on the Truth and putting no trust in God!

1 Peter 2:6-7 "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes [trusts] on Him will by no means be put to shame.' Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone'"—of the believer's faith.

Trusting on the *Blood* of Christ is the *corner-stone* of Christian faith. 1 Peter 2:8 "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense. They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."

Jesus came to take away the sins of the world, but He met with rejection and ridicule. All this bitterness and resentment within them caused them to hate and murder. Pilate wanted to *release* Jesus, but the people *valued* a murderer more than the Messiah. They asked for the criminal to be *released* and demanded that the Lord be *crucified*—totally misguided morals.

Before conversion, the apostle wanted to destroy lives, but after repentance, he counted Philippians 3:8-9 "All things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but [refuse], that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own right-eousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." His values were reversed—the world's way was worthless, and the Lord's Truth was priceless—the way it should be.

The righteousness of God comes only by trusting in faith on the atoning Blood of the Cross—for everything—healing; protection; for daily supplies; for justice; for an attitude of forgiveness toward everyone; and for any other faith issue. Valuing and living God's Truth leads out of troubles in this life, and in to victory for the next. The advice from the world takes us away from God, and in to the pitfalls of Satan. If there is no true and sincere repentance, we could land in the flames.

The Bible teaches us to trust God for healing—not trust drugs or vaccines like the world. The carnal mind values medicine and pays huge sums in medical bills but places no value on trusting in God's *divine* power that would *forgive* them and *heal* them at no cost!

Every human *plan* of the world eliminates faith on the *power* of God. Medical plans of the world are inspired by Satan who hates humanity so intensely, that he wants to destroy them forever

in Hell. Satan's *lie* leads to spiritual *harm* and eternal *destruction*, but God's *Truth* leads to spiritual *fruit* and eternal *life*—including protection, health, healing, and Heaven.

Jesus gave up His life on the cross and was raised to life by the power of God, so that every promise of Scripture would be possible for the believer. 2 Corinthians 1:20 "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

The value of knowing God's Truth is beyond any monetary value system on earth. 1 Peter 1:22-23 "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."

God's *Truth* is explained in the Bible—telling us to follow the path of faith in Christ, by keeping our trust on the promises of God. Jesus said Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." John 14:23, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." That information is priceless—but any suggestion from the devil is worthless.

When we finally decide to depend on God alone, we can expect answers to prayer. We are to accept God's *Word* in the Bible, as we would accept His *advice* in Person. His Word of Truth has *not* changed because it *cannot* change—

Malachi 3:6: James 1:17.

We may be *tempted* to value Satan's suggestions over God's *Word*, but it is *only* a temptation and *not* a sin—unless we *act* on Satan's *lie*. Romans 14:23 "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." If we continue to *trust* God in faith, He teaches us to *value* His Word *more* than anything else.

If we value God's *Word*, we will trust God's *power*—to deliver us from illness; to supply any need; to correct any injustice; and to protect loved ones. *That* is what the Bible teaches. Since God created the universe with a *Word*, then it is just as easy for Him to heal our body by that *same Word*. Matthew 8:8 "*Speak the word only, and my servant will be healed.*"

The apostle's prayer was that Ephesians 1:18 "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead."

Abraham acted in faith on the *Word*, and was made righteous by God as He *promised*—and Abraham is already in Heaven, because he valued God's *Truth* enough to obey God's *Word* in faith. The rich man Luke 16 did *not value* the Word, so he did *not trust* God in this life. Being one of six brothers and the first to pass away, he found himself in Hell and tormented by the flames.

He could *see* Abraham in Paradise and was able to *ask* him for a drink. Abraham told him that he had *had* his opportunity to *value* God's Word and to *trust* Him in faith when he was on earth—which is the *only* place *anyone* can live by faith. Abraham had to say that an *impassible* barrier was permanently in place, so it was *impossible* for either side to have access to the other.

The man wanted someone to warn his brothers about coming to that horrifying place of never-ending torture. He thought that if someone went from the dead and told these brothers that Hell was real, they would *heed* the warning, and *repent* of their sin—of *not trusting* God in faith while they had the opportunity.

Abraham said if his brothers would *not value* God's Word through the writings of Moses and the prophets, they would *not value* His Word *even* if someone rose from the grave. It would *scare* them but not *convert* them. Hebrews 12:25 "See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven."

A spiritual mind *values* things as Abraham valued them; *believes* the Word as Abraham did; values God's *Truth* as he did; and *acts* in faith on God's promises like he did. A spiritually-minded person places the highest *value* on God's Truth. If we are willing to learn, God is ready to teach.

A test of faith is an opportunity to learn what God can do—if we will trust Him to do it.

1 Peter 1:6-7 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness [grieved] through manifold temptations: That the trial [genuineness] of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried [tested] with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

The world prefers *gold on earth* rather than *faith in Christ*—but it is *faith* in God that enables us to receive His *promises*—promises of protection, peace, provisions, health, healing, and Heaven. God's divine *promises* include His divine *guidance* we need each day.

There is a direction to go, and there is a place to enter 1 Peter 1:9 "You are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." God's Truth—we must know it; value it; and live it! We must <u>Value the Truth Above All!</u>—eternity is at stake!

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