

THE WISEMAN SAYS

True wisdom is to know what is best worth knowing, and to do what is best worth doing.

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH?

Miss Helen McKim

David marveled that the God who made the heavens, the moon, and the stars, and tinted the flowers with His fingers, was also mindful of man. Yet he realized that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

I have been thinking of the value that God places on an individual. How much does He think we are worth? What do you think that you are worth? The human body would not bring much if sold for salvage. Enough phosphorous to make a few matches, a bit of sulphur, some nitrates, iron, and other minerals—perhaps less than two dollars would buy the body at war prices.

But think of the price God paid to redeem us! There is a beautiful verse in 1 Peter 1:18-19, which tells us that we were redeemed with "the precious blood of Christ." What a price for your soul and mine; yet how prone we are to under-value its worth. Why has such a value been placed upon it? Is it not because it is immortal and will live beyond the grave? Our bodies must return to the dust whence they came, but not so with the soul. Longfellow realized this when he wrote:

"Life is real, life is earnest:
And the grave is not its goal,
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul."

When God created man He imparted a part of Himself into him—"the breath of life." In Genesis 2:7 we read: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." He made man with a soul, and it was the souls of men that He beheld when it was declared by John that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). God in His heaven must have thought man's soul to be of much value, or He would not have sacrificed His only Son to die for our sins.

In 1 Peter we read: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world." Does this not prove to us the value of the soul? The awful price that was paid to redeem us from sin. The suffering that was endured on the Cross that we might get to heaven! We ask are we worth all this? Could God love so much that He would give His only begotten Son thus to die? Could Christ love so deeply that He would be willing to say, "Thy will, not mine, be done?" Could He be so overcome with love that He could drink of the bitter cup in Gethsemane, be led away to Calvary to die alone for all the sin of the whole world—He, who knew no sin? Yes, indeed! For His love was so complete, so perfect that He did suffer all this; and for His enemies as well as His friends.

How can we hope to repay such a debt? This can never be done. How can we prove our appreciation? By loving Him for it. By giving to Him our hearts and lives for Him to rule and use.

"Take my will, and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine;

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12

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EVERY WORKER A HELPER

A traveler, standing outside Cologne Cathedral, expressed his admiration at its beauty. "Yes," said a laborer, who was near, "it's a fine looking building, and took us many a year to finish." "Took you!" exclaimed the tourist. "Why, what had you to do with it?" "I mixed the mortar, sir," was the modest yet proud reply. The laborer had a right to feel that he had a share in the grand work. In the same way by his consecrated service, every one can help in the work of building up human society into a holy temple of the Lord. Every worker is a helper.—H.

SMILES

By Alfred I. Tooke

You'd think smiles cost a dollar each,
The way some people hoard them!
You'd think they'd taken all of theirs
And in some vault had stored them.

Don't be that way with yours! A smile
Won't cost a single penny;
But oh, it carries cheerfulness
To those who haven't any.

And out of cheerfulness grows hope,
To oust despair and sadness,
That laughter may be born again,
And joyfulness and gladness.

POWER OF RELIGION

Every one likes to be powerful. Religion wields the greatest power in the universe, the power of God. We are not praying at all unless we expect things to happen because of our prayers that would not happen otherwise. Religion gives the religious soul the confidence born of close touch with the centre of all things. "I can do all things," says the Christian, "through Christ who strengthens me." Is not this worth while?—Dr. Amos R. Wells.

Take my heart—it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne."

Saint Paul, too, valued the souls of men. Otherwise he would not have been able to give the testimony: "For we are made a spectacle to the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak but ye are strong; ye are honorable but ye are despised." Nor, if he had not realized the worth of the souls of men and desired to see them saved, would he have been willing to receive five times of the Jews' forty stripes save one; to be thrice beaten with rods, once stoned, three times to suffer shipwreck and to spend a night and a day in the deep; suffering the perils in the wilderness and among false brethren; enduring weariness and pain, hunger and thirst, cold and nakedness.

In these perilous times men and women seem to have forgotten that the soul of man lives forever, and because of this indifference we find them everywhere selling their souls for money, fame, and the perishable things of earth.

My prayer is that the Lord will teach us to value the souls of men and women.

READ YOUR BIBLE

Are you keeping your New Year resolution to read some portion of the Bible every day?

DOES THE BIBLE SAY THAT?

"Occasionally, we hear things that make our ears tingle. Read 1 Sam. 3:11, and find out what the Lord was going to do in Israel "at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle."

2. Did you ever notice how easily the wind blows the foam from a whirlpool in the river? The prophet Hosea said that the king of Samaria "is cut off as the foam upon the water." Hosea 10:7.

3. A blush usually indicates innocence and modesty. During one period, the people of Israel were so wicked that "they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush." Jer. 6:15.

4. We put books or clothes in a bundle, but whoever heard of making a "bundle of life?" Turn to 1 Sam. 25:29.

5. We have often wondered what kind of a little bird it is that whispers things in people's ears. Solomon warned us to be careful of him, anyhow. Eccles. 10:20.

6. A cake half-baked is symbolic of a job not done, or an incomplete character. Hosea said that "Ephraim is a cake not turned." Hosea 7:8.

7. There would be very little difficulty in catching a dead dog, although a flea might be more elusive. David evidently thought that Saul had been pursuing the above mentioned creatures. Read 1 Sam. 24:14.

W. H. M.

ANSWERS TO "WHO SAID IT?"

1. Jacob; 2. Moses; 3. Balaam; 4. Moses; 5. Caleb; 6. Joshua; 7. Ruth; 8. Nehemiah; 9. Nehemiah; 10. Satan; 11. Job; 12. David; 13. David; 14. Solomon; 15. Solomon; 16. Isaiah; 17. Jeremiah; 18. Jeremiah; 19. Daniel; 20. John Baptist; 21. Jesus; 22. Paul.

LORD, MAKE ME STRONG

Lord, make me strong—my strength is only weakness—

Let Thy great power possess my inmost soul.

Give the grace to show the strength of meekness,

The might of gentleness and self-control.

Lord, make me strong against the fret and worry,

Strong in the patience that can wait and wait,

Seeing no need for anxious, breathless hurry.

For Thy good plan for me is never late.

And make me strong in calmness of assurance

That Thou art shaping human destiny,
And, knowing this, my faith shall find endurance

In calm that knows Thy will is best for me.

O make me strong enough to be forgiving—

Like Him who hung upon the cruel tree.

For all the failures in my daily living,

O Lord, I pray that Thou wilt pardon me.

—Selected

CHEERFULNESS

What, indeed, does not that word "cheerfulness" imply? It means a contented spirit;