

THE PRICE OF A MAN

By: Phillip Hayes

"I will make a man more precious than fine gold "
[Isaiah 13:12].

What is the price of a man? What is he or she worth? There are many ways one might determine a man's worth. You may be surprised at what I found in my study.

During my research, I found if you were to value a man's worth from what his body consisted of it wasn't very much. The primary elements your body is made up of is oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, sodium, chlorine, magnesium, iron and iodine. You also have trace amounts of other elements such as silicon, manganese, fluorine, copper, zinc, arsenic and aluminum. After determining the percentages of each of these elements, the going rate for a body's worth is just \$1.00. That's all!

Let's look at your body another way. If we tanned your hide for use as leather, your skin would be worth about \$3.50 if it were sold at the price of cowhide which runs around \$0.25 per square foot. If we add the dollars worth of elements to the value of your skin we might be able to get \$4.50! I don't know about you but this doesn't make me feel a bit better!

I thought, "What about selling the parts of my body"? I was shocked to find that if you could sell all your body parts your body could be worth up to \$45 million dollars!

How does this all break down? It depends if you sell your organs legally or via the black market. The biggest ticket organ in the U.S. is your heart: They're going for a

cool \$1 million. Livers come in second, worth about \$557,000 and kidneys fetch about \$262,000 each. Black market prices are lower, maybe 10% of the above costs.

Well, we have increased our value from \$1 to \$45 million dollars. You should be feeling a little better about yourself.

But wait, there are other ways to determine the price of a man.

I thought about slavery. I had never researched the cost of a slave before. We had studied about slavery and the Civil War in school. I knew that whole families were sold at auction as late as the mid 1800's in the United States but I had no clue what they were sold for. What was the price of a man during those times?

The first thing I discovered was slaves were very expensive. Only the rich could afford a slave. White farmers, plantation owners and others bought slaves as an investment. Slaves made even more money for their owners than they cost to buy. They were a profitable investment!

A healthy 18 year old slave could be bought for \$650 in 1845. (That's about \$14,500 in today's dollars). That same slave could be sold five years later for \$1,000. (About \$21,000 in today's dollars). That same slave if she or he remained healthy, could be sold again. In the years before the Civil War, such a slave might bring \$2,000 or about \$40,000, in modern currency. At the time the South seceded from the Union, the purchase of a single slave represented more than \$130,000 in today's prices.

I was shocked to find that slavery is still legal in 167 countries worldwide, affecting about 46 million people. Six of these nations have significantly high numbers: India (18.4 million); China (3.4 million); Pakistan (2.1 million); Bangladesh (1.5 million); Uzbekistan (1.2 million); North Korea (1.1 million). Other countries with significantly high slave populations are Russia, Nigeria, Indonesia, Egypt,

Myanmar, Iran, Turkey, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is another reason the United States is the greatest nation in the world. Men and women are free!

If you think a person's material wealth is the determining factor of the price of a man you would find there are some very rich people in the world.

Just in the United States you will find the following: Jeff Bezos of Amazon is at the top with a net worth of \$145 billion dollars. Bill Gates is second with \$106 billion dollars. Warren Buffett is third with \$80.8 billion dollars. Then there is Mark Zuckerberg with \$69.6 billion dollars. Walmart's Jim Walton, Alice Walton and S. Robson Walton have a combined net worth of \$154.3 billion dollars! These are only a few of the Billionaires in the United States! Boy, they are worth a lot of money!

What do you personally consider a man's worth to be? You may think of someone you have little regard for and you might say, "Not much"! Or if you have a high regard for someone you might say, "He or she is worth a lot!"

Our emotions will run the gambit evaluating the worth of people we know or have heard of. No doubt if we had to place a dollar figure on a man or woman's worth it would vary very much according to what we know or "feel" about someone. Those we love would be more valuable of course. Those we despise would be worth little. It's the way carnal human beings relate to each another. I'm sure you have heard someone describe another person like this, "He's a piece of garbage". Or, maybe you have heard someone say, "She's a real jewel"!

We are all much too quick to judge and place a value on one another. Most times we do it without thinking. It is almost a spontaneous response! I know, I know, you don't do that, do you? Well, if you are honest and give it some

thought, I believe you will admit, you are guilty. When we admit it, we realize we are all prejudiced in many ways.

I find prejudice everywhere I go. The sad thing is most people don't realize it. I know Native Americans that are prejudiced against white people and visa versa. The same with African, Asian, or Hispanic people. Racism is a horrible condition! Some black people think white people today owe them a living because some (and it was very few) of their white ancestors had black slaves. Also, some white people consider their race superior to other races. I hope you see that no matter the color of your skin you can be a racist!

I know many people of color in all these ethnic groups that work hard and are tremendously blessed; educated, prosperous and living the American dream. They are professionals, own businesses, skilled tradesmen; and most of all they love America. Most of them are shocked and dismayed at the racism, hatred and anarchy exhibited by their respective brethren.

Here is the problem. People that are prejudiced are racists! You have chosen to hate someone because of the color of their skin or what a few people did to another race of people hundreds if not thousands of years ago that in reality has absolutely nothing to do with the person you despise today.

The reason you are in this horrible condition of hatred is simply because you don't know the value of the person you hate. All Lives Do Matter! We are all Americans by birth, and we all share an EQUAL VALUE! If you are Native American (American Indian) you may believe you are worth more because your ancestors were in America first? That is really the attitude of many, however in reality, no matter your race, if you were born in America you are a Native American. Therefore, there should be no such thing as

Indian Americans, Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian or White Americans!

Consider the Jewish people. There has never been another race of people that has suffered persecution and hatred as they have. Your thoughts may go to the horrible atrocities committed by Hitler and Nazi Germany against the Jews. However, throughout the history of the world they have been hunted down like animals. Many times they lived as slaves to other nations. Hated, despised, and rejected by other races. Even today, there are people throughout the world that hate these poor people. What about their reactions to the people that have belittled and persecuted them? Do they expect Germany or the other nations to pay them for all the horrible things done to them? Do they think the world owes them a hand out? No! They are back in their God given land. They are blessed, prosperous, wealthy and happy even in the midst of a constant threat of war and cruelty from their neighbors! Each one of these precious people are extremely valuable!

That poor black child with little or nothing to eat that is being raised in the Ghetto is as important and valuable as that rich man living in his huge mansion with servants and maids at his command. If you don't believe that, you need to fall on your knees and ask God to save you!

My wife and I with the help of our small ministry followers have built and supports an orphanage in the mountains of Haiti. Does that mean we love black people more than white people? Almost every year for over thirty years I have driven thousands of miles to minister and support precious American Indians living on reservations in the North Western United States and Canada. Some years we journeyed there as many as five times. Does that mean we love Indian people more than we love any other race?

The reason I have continued to minister to these precious people is because God opened the door for me to

minister to them. God sent me because He cares for all people! Every human being is of equal value to Him. If God's Holy Spirit dwells in you, you should have the same heart to all people, not just for your race! If you don't you certainly are walking in the flesh and not in His Spirit!

I remember one year about twenty-eight years ago we had come back from the reservations in Canada and Montana. It had been a very grueling mission and had taken several weeks to complete our journey. We were tired but so happy to be back home in Tennessee. I really looked forward to that first service getting back to our home church. I thought everyone would be thrilled to have us back after such a long absence. After delivering my message and giving a report to the people about our mission trip, I asked if anyone would like to say anything before we dismissed the service. I will never forget what a woman stood and said. Including all the people with a wave of her hand she said, "Brother Hayes we believe you love them Indians more than you love us."

I was shocked and dismayed. I thought, this woman has no clue what the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our church, nor our ministry was all about! She was a kindly, good woman that loved our ministry, and I believe she loved the Lord. But she was prejudiced and didn't even know it. I wonder if some of you are like her? I hope not, but if you are, I want to help you change your heart and mind.

In the United States the body of Christ is divided over many things. Division is bad enough when it involves the foundational teachings of Jesus and His Apostles but what about race? Yes, the church as a whole is divided over race! This is why we have whole Christians denominations that are for black people only. Today we have Black churches, Indian churches and White Churches. As silly as it sounds, we also have "Cowboy Churches" and "Motorcycle Riders Churches"! Do cowboys really have a problem worshipping

with businessmen? Do people that ride motorcycles feel uncomfortable worshipping with cowboys? Or, is there an underlying motive that makes people of another race or position in society uncomfortable to worship with others. Is that "uncomfortable feeling" of partiality mean you are prejudiced? If you are intolerant of others I would conclude you are indeed prejudiced. If you are guilty in preferring a church that fits the above criteria, you are prejudiced. To you, men have different values.

If you can see the true value of human beings the way God sees it, I believe it will help you.

I have tried to show you what people say the "Price Of A Man" is. We have all fallen short in our assessment of the value of a human being. We don't really know our own value! It's sad that men continue to undervalue each other. Judas bargained with the chief priests and betrayed our Lord Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. To Judas and those priests, Jesus was only worth about \$200.00 in today's rate of exchange for silver!

What is a man worth? The oldest book in the Bible is the book of Job. We find these words, "*What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?*" [Job 1:17]. The writer of Psalms 8:4 asks this question, "*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*" And again in Psalms 144:3, "*LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!*"

We see from ancient times that penetrating question is asked over and over. What is man? Why does God love him? Why is God mindful of man? Yes, there is something about man that we must know! Why is God so attentive to His created man?

You might think that because God created man is why He is so intrigued with man. I'm sure some of you have created some things also. Perhaps you ladies have made a beautiful quilt or some of you men have built a piece of furniture or perhaps built a house. I'm sure you admired your creation, but you probably gave or sold your creation without another thought. So, I don't believe that's the reason God is mindful of man!

Jesus often referred to God as "The Father" or "Our Father". It may surprise you to know that there is only one scripture in all of the Old Testament that refers to God as a Father. It is found in Isaiah 63:16, "*Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting*". The title of Father given to God was very rare indeed. Most people probably never heard the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob being identified as their Father! This would have been a revelation! Jesus revealed, "God is our Father"!

At the very beginning of our Lord's ministry He began to teach people that they were VALUABLE TO GOD and that God was their Father!

Look at verse six and seven in Luke chapter twelve: Jesus speaking, "*Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? (Farthing: ¼ of an old English penny). But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*" Jesus is revealing what man is worth in this passage! He emphasizes that God is aware and concerned about five little birds that are only worth 1/4 of a penny! He tells the people that God is so conscience of them that he knows the number of hairs they have on their heads and they are worth more than many sparrows.

Our relationship to God is like the loving relationship between parent and child. Like a loving parent, God knows and cares deeply for each of us. Again, this was a revelation to the people!

Jesus said, When you pray say, "Our Father". *"And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil" [Luke 11:2-4].*

Some of you may have never considered that God was your Father and that you could go to Him in prayer the same as you would go to your earthly father for help.

Galatians 4:6 and 7 says, *"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ".* Abba is an affectionate term for Father roughly meaning "Daddy" or "Papa" in our language. Imagine, going to your Father in prayer and saying, "Daddy, I love you and I know you love me"! This is the relationship God wants you to know and enjoy! God wants you to know that you are more, much more than a created being. He wants you to know you are a son of God, and an heir of God! You are valuable! God wants you to know, You are worth a lot to Him!

God knows and loves each of us personally, as parents know and love their children. God will give good things to those who ask. Look at this: *"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for*

of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them" [Mark 10:13-16].

Jesus compared the little children to those that would be in the kingdom of God He was establishing. Further, I believe Jesus wanted His people to recognize God as their Father and as a Father He would provide for them. We need the faith of a child. Better yet, we need the faith of a child of God! A child never worries about tomorrow; what they should wear or what they should eat! A child is solely dependent on their earthly parents to supply all their needs.

Doesn't this sound exactly like our Lord's teaching? Of course it does! This is how Jesus said it: *"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" [Matthew 6:25-26].* Jesus is saying, "Don't worry! God will provide for you".

Unless you have faith as a child it will be impossible for you to accept and believe these next verses: *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" [Matthew 7:7-11].* You Father in

Heaven desires to give you good things! You ask, you receive! You seek, you find! You knock, it is opened to you! It is that simple. If you can understand this as a child of God you can have whatever you ask for. No doubts!

If you can get this one thing out of this article you will be blessed. God wants you to know that you are more than a servant, more than a church member, more than a created being that He enjoys. You are His sons and daughters! You and I are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him! You and I are eternally connected to our Father. He wants your trust that He will supply all your needs through His riches in Glory.

You may think God doesn't love you because you have sinned. But that is far from the truth. God loves His children so much He would search the universe for just one that was lost. The angels of God understand God's great love for man far more than we do as humans. Here is how Jesus described God's love for one that was lost: *"What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance"* [Luke 15:4-7]. God's Grace is truly amazing! Glory to God!

What is the price of a man? We have seen what man says and we have deliberated our actions compared to what we say. Obviously it matters little what man thinks of himself or his worth. What matters is what God says a man is worth. This is what you must know.

I want you to know YOU COST GOD A LOT! Pay close attention to these scriptures: *"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" [1Peter 1:17-19].*

God the Father paid for you and I my friend. The cost was God's only begotten Son! God esteemed man so incredibly expensive that all the silver and gold in the universe was not enough to purchase man. The price tag for man was the precious blood of Christ! That's what you are worth to God!

You have been redeemed! The word redeemed means to *buy up*, that is, *ransom*; figuratively to *rescue* from loss. I hope you can see that you are worth more than the richest man on planet earth! Billions of dollars couldn't buy you! You are much too expensive! Only the precious blood of Christ could purchase you.

God gave His best! *"For 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].* I hope John 3:16 means more to you now!

The Bible tells us we are bought with a price! *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" [1Corinthians 6:19-20].*

Acts 20:28 says, *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God,*

which he hath purchased with his own blood."

I hope you see that you are the most valuable possession God has in the entire universe. You are worth more than the stars and planets. You are worth more than the angels! Jesus didn't die for the angels, He died for you!

We are no longer our own. We are a purchased possession of God. He owns us body, soul and spirit. When He bought us, He sealed us! Yes He did! As soon as you believed the Gospel, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is the earnest or a pledge from God in advance as security until we are fully redeemed. Here is the proof: *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory"* [Ephesians 1:13-14].

Apostle John wrote and declared to the church, *"Now are we the sons of God"*. Right now, you and I are sons of the Living God. The Apostle Paul wrote the Philippian church and revealed that they were ". . . *blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world"* [Philippians 2:15]. Sons of God are blameless and harmless! Without rebuke means we are unblameable and we shine as lights in the world. We are now the lights of the world! You! You are the light of the world!

You may feel like you are a nobody and least in the kingdom of God, but God says you are a royal priesthood, and a king! He has chosen us to be kings and priests. God said, we are royalty! *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye*

should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" [1Peter 2:9]. The book of Revelation gives us a second witness to our royalty, "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" [Revelation 1:6].

I know there are great men and women in the earth today and they are well regarded by men for their accomplishments. Although you and I will probably never be recognized while on this earth, there is none greater than a child of God.

What is the price of a man? What would a man give to never die and live forever. I think all the Billionaires I listed in the beginning of this article would gladly give it all to be able to live forever. So, eternal life itself is priceless. If you are a born again believer in Jesus Christ, you have been given the most expensive and precious gift man could possible hope for. You now have eternal life! Jesus has abolished death for you! *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" [2Timothy 1:9-10].* "Who hath saved us" is past tenses. You are already saved. Christ has "abolished" (made void, done away with) death.

This is something God wants you to know that you can be sure of. First John chapter five, verse 11 says, *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."* God "hath given" has already given us eternal life!

What Is The Price Of A Man? The answer is:
\$Priceless