

THANKS *for* GIVING SERIES

“The Joy of Living is a Life Worth Giving”
(II Corinthians 4:6-7; John 12:12-13:38; I Timothy 6:17-19)

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.” (II Corinthians 4:6-7)

Notice what Paul says to Timothy in I Timothy 6:17-19,

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

There are some truths in these verses that we need to learn about. When we give, it does some things for us:

In Humility, Prioritize God Over What We Have - For It is God that Gives Us What We Have
to Enjoy! (Vs 17)

With Gratitude, Be Generous in Good Works and Ready to Share as a Down Payment for a
Future Filled with Real Life! (Vs 18-19)

Notice what Jesus said in John 12:24-25,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:24-25)

So what does a **LIFE WORTH GIVING** really mean? First of all, let’s understand a ...

❖ **A Worthy Life**

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1a)

Let us be reminded of ...

- How The World Judges Worth

For example,

- Beauty: Considered the So-Called Gold Coin of Human Worth

Or what about ...

- Intelligence - the Supposed Silver Coin of Human Worth

There are ...

- Additional Examples All Around Us

Listen to ...

- How God Judges Worth

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1)

*"God does not love us because we are valuable,
we are valuable because God loves us."*

- How We Are To Judge Worth

- Are you not as intelligent as you'd like? Do you feel like a dummy? Ignorant? God says, *"Look at my brilliant child, filled with the wisdom and knowledge of Christ!"*
- Do you believe your personality is dull? God says, *"Look at my exciting child, who has the joy of the gospel in his heart!"*
- Do you feel you are poor? Do you wish you had the money of the rich and famous? God says, *"Look at my wealthy child, possessing all the glorious riches of Christ."*
- Are you getting old forever conscious of your age? God says, *"Look at my vibrant young child, who has brand new life each day in Christ."*

AND, when we understand A WORTHY LIFE, it lead us to ...

❖ A Giving Life

So then, what is ...

- The Motivation for Giving is My Worth in Christ
 - I give out of obedience, but it is obedience grounded in overwhelming gratitude.
 - I give so that others may receive affirmation in Christ through the gospel.
 - I give that future generations may grow in the knowledge of God and serve Him all the days of their lives.
 - I give to build a foundation so those who come after me can stand upon that foundation of being worthy in Christ.

So now that we understand that our motivation for giving is MY WORTH IN CHRIST, we see that:

- The Message in Giving is My Worship of Christ

“Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1)

- Put Your Whole Self In

"To present your bodies" is Paul's way of saying, *"Put your whole self in."*

- Put Your Worth-ship Side Up

When we come to church, we often come not as sons and daughters but as beaten down and discouraged humans in need of a pep talk.

But if you have been born again, then recognize how God sees you. Begin to accept His evaluation of you freeing you to give your whole life over to Him with joy and peace.