

CHRIST ... and a unique sense of values  
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(MARK 8: 36; LUKE 7: 28; EPHESIANS 3: 8)

God's simple equations are astounding ; His sense of values is something to cause amazement. He relegates the great things of earth to a place of insignificance, and lifts the unattractive to a place of importance. God's way of work, -ing is often bewildering, and this simple study in compounding values illustrates this fact.

#### The Unequalled Greatness of Man

The world in which we live is a treasure house of beauty. The Supreme Architect gave of His best when He fashioned and executed His plans concerning the universe. This planet is but one of untold millions, yet here we find immeasurable riches. The mineral wealth of the coal-fields, the diamond fields, and the gold reefs, is something beyond computation. Centuries ago man began extracting this treasure, but much more remains than he has ever claimed. The earth with its riches, the harvests with their abundant provision, the vast mountain ranges which have been the guardians of the plains from time immemorial, the stately splendor of the forests, and the amazing achievements of man, beggar description. The earth presents an Aladdin's cave of gigantic proportions. The ransoms of a million kings would be but a fraction of its indescribable riches ; and yet according to Christ, all this could not equal the value of a soul. The towering hills, the scintillating gems, the radiance of a sunrise, the charm of the sea at eventide, the freshness of the flowers, the roaring industries, the far-flung empires of man are nothing in comparison with the value of a soul. Christ said, " For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul?" (Mark 8: 36).

#### The Unprecedented Greatness of a Saint

We are justified therefore in assuming that from God's viewpoint, man is the crown of creation. He was made in the likeness of God, and is sufficiently great to retain his place. Something of the greatness of God may still be detected in human ability. The realms of music, art, science, have all produced men of genius, beneath whose spell the world has been enthralled. Yet, if we were to harness all the gifts of these illustrious people, and if we could present them to one superman, even he would not represent superlative wealth. Could he paint lifelike scenes which would astonish angels ; could he produce music to rival the harmony of heaven's choirs ; could he sing with the voice of a seraph ; could he read the secrets of the night sky, and forecast unerringly the events of the future-were he astronomer, musician, scientist, artist, millionaire-were he the greatest man in God's world, he would be less than the least Christian. Christ declared of John Baptist, " Among those that are born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." A prophet was God's man ; the greatest prophet was God's special man ; and yet the weakest, the most uneducated Christian-the LEAST in the kingdom of God supersedes the greatest outside the kingdom of God. Therefore if a man is of more value than the world, and a saint is greater than the best man, it follows that the world of nature cannot be compared with the wonder of a redeemed soul. God could make another world, and people it with great men and women ; but to produce another Calvary would baffle even the omniscience of the

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Almighty.

#### The Unimaginable Greatness of Christ

If one Christian represents such fabulous wealth, the untold millions of saints who form the Church of Christ would represent a correspondingly increased amount. For example, when John described the choir of the redeemed, he said, "The number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." The Church of Christ is composed of people drawn from "every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation-" Yet in the sight of God, the reconciling death of Christ equalled the need of this immense throng. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" (Rom. 5: 19). If that which Christ accomplished satisfactorily cancelled the immense debt of so many, then how great was the value of His sacrifice. Perhaps Paul had this thought in mind when he endeavored to express the wonder of his Lord. Because most adjectives seemed too commonplace, the apostle spoke of "The unsearchable riches of Christ"-and yet, He died for us!

I stand all amazed at the love Jesus offers me,  
Confused at the grace that so freely He proffers me  
I tremble to know that for me He was crucified-  
That for me, a sinner, He suffered, He bled, He died.  
Oh, it is wonderful that He should care for me  
Enough to die for me  
Oh, it is wonderful, wonderful to me!

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