

The Soul Felt Its Worth

Part 1: What is a soul worth?

Genesis 1:27 and Romans 5:6-8

WE: No matter who you are, where you come from, what you have or haven't done... You are more loved... You are more valuable... You are worth more than you have imagined.

Hard to believe/feel sometimes isn't it?

And I don't know you. And even if I do, I don't know the deep down real you, right?

So how can I say what you are worth? Am I just selling some feel good sentimentality so you keep watching and hopefully give some money?

Nope. I can confidently say that whoever you are, you have infinite worth b/c of... Xmas

And I know Xmas can be a hard, lonely, difficult, busy, stressful time... many of us want to experience that promised childlike wonder our culture has put around it, or the true peace we hear about... but it just comes and goes so quickly or carries with it too many hard memories.

But Xmas actually offers something so much better, deeper, tangible than a few weeks of twinkling lights and special movies.

The meaning of Xmas isn't about just one day, it's what xmas means for every day.

I think it's something a lot of us have forgotten, but reminders are everywhere... even in the songs we sing once a year...

Favorite Xmas Carol... Nope not Santa Baby... O Holy Night.

If not yours that's ok. I won't judge your horrible taste.

The tune/music/melody for sure is awesome...

But it's the truth in its words that make it my favorite... words like...

Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees
Oh hear the angel voices

Truly He taught us to love one another

His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease

Sums up so much of the truth of God's gift to us...

Xmas forever changed our relationship with God... ourselves... and each other.

Want to take a few episodes and really dissect what I'm talking about... I think understanding this not only will transform this song for you, not only will magnify the impact of this season, but can truly transform your everyday.

B/c here's the thing **When we accept our true worth we experience the true life Jesus offers.**

GOD: So what did the writer (Adolphe Adam) mean when we wrote... til' he appeared and the soul felt its worth?

When humanity was shown our true value to God.

See here's what we've forgotten... something God told us from the very beginning... **God created humanity to have immeasurable, eternal worth.**

Genesis 1:27

- Adam and Eve: Ok if you see it as allegorical. Seems like Jesus didn't so I don't but... the main point is... however humanity came into existence it was b/c of God, and in whatever process he used he made humanity "In his image"

In his image: Not arms, legs, etc.

In his image = AS his image... we are his imagers

Us being made in/as his image is like creating a sculpture to describe a symphony. **[Explain]**

In some way, we (in our existence) are an expression of our eternal Creator's attributes... We in some way are representations of his life, personality, truth, wisdom, love, holiness, justice.

It's not a quality within us... it is what it is to be human.

The image of God is what humans are. Male/Female. All races. Cultures. Abilities. Whether Believe, doubt, reject.

We all, no matter who, what, what not, where are imagers of God.

When you create there's a piece of you in there... Art, creating something, children- bear your image and therefore have worth to you.

Our worth comes from who and what we were created to be... images of God.

Hard to believe b/c most never told and if told... it's so easy to forget.

Life tries to scream the opposite at us... just another number, just random chance, your worth is determined by what you can offer, create, contribute, achieve. Or that we don't look like the supermodel we should resemble, that our image "isn't right".

Worth is determined by followers, dollars, clicks, looks, or experiences.

Feel small, insignificant, alone.

Would be easy to buy into, be convinced... except God not only told us of our worth he proved it...

And We had forgotten... Ancient world... no value to human life, no value to those weaker/different...

- Child exposure
- No rights for women/children/poor
- Might made right

Everyone trying to go their own way, look out for themselves...Separated from God, each other, their own selves...

Until he appeared and the soul felt its worth...

Here's how Paul put it... **Romans 5:6-8**

How much is this painting worth? Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi [**MOONDEE**]

Holds record for how much it was purchased for... approximately \$450.3 million in November 2017

How do we know it's worth that much? B/c that's how much someone was willing to give for it.

So how do we know what we are truly worth?

The infinite, all powerful, all knowing, all creative God chose to come to earth and pay for us... w/ himself

He chose to become a poor, dirty, peasant in 1st century middle east on some holy night 2000 yrs ago.

Chose to give himself daily to love others and ultimately to give himself on the cross to conquer sin and death for us.

Jesus proved our worth by what he was willing to give for us.

That's how much you are worth... the life of God become human.

This truth/realization changed the world... see when the soul feels its worth the only response available to us is... to fall on our knees... to worship/love him with our lives...

Xians 1st century: Saw themselves and others as imagers of God, and it transformed their lives... b/c Jesus proved his love and their worth they couldn't help but share that with those around them...

Adopted exposed babies and raised them.

Rich shared what they had w/ the poor.

Social hierarchies were smashed as each class chose to see the other as a loved image bearer of God.

The idea of what we now call Hospitals was developed.

Families were transformed as each family member threw off social norms and chose mutual loving submission to each other

Gave up fighting for themselves and forgave each other, chose to love each other, supported and cared for each other.

When you accept your worth your life is changed for eternity... and as we'll see in a few episodes it changes how you live with every one else everyday.

YOU:

As we begin the xmas season... my hope for you is that you will discover, remember, accept your true worth...

So that you may discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

Read: **1 John 4:7-12**

Pray: As shopping, enjoying decorations, etc. "Thank you for giving me infinite worth. Help accept it, enjoy it, and share it." Little thing that will make a big difference this season.

Attend/Invite: Dec 19th

Join CG's: January.

WE:

No matter who you are, where you come from, what you have or haven't done... You are more loved... You are more valuable... You are worth more than you have imagined.

How do I know...

B/c you were created to be the imager of the eternal, infinite, uncaused first cause, THE all loving God.

And he proved your worth by what he willingly gave for you... himself.

And the only response is to use that truth to show others their true worth.

B/c

Xmas reveals the worth God gives to every soul.

Questions:

1. What's a favorite holiday tradition of yours- song, poem, movie, food, etc.? What is it about that tradition that is meaningful for you?
2. Jon's main point was that Christmas proves our immeasurable worth to God. Why do you think it is difficult for us to accept, remember, and/or enjoy our and others' true worth to God?
3. Read 1 John 4:7-12. What are some ways you could remind others of their worth this season?
4. How can your group pray with you this week?

Summary:

In our culture Christmas promises a lot of things... things like peace, hope, joy, and happy memories. But it often seems like those promises go unfulfilled. Maybe those things aren't found in what Christmas promises, but in what Christmas proves about our true worth.

Episode Breakdown:

- 00:57 Santa Hat Shennanigans
- 02:00 Part 1: What's a soul worth?
- 04:30 Why OHN is so awesome.
- 08:13 What's God's image mean?
- 12:00 How do we know what we're worth?
- 13:45 The early church knew it...
- 15:50 This week's challenge
- 18:50 A little OHN on violin
- 20:25 Ace & Moni close us out and stay mostly on task.
- 24:30 Qs, Bloopers and Outtakes

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SHOW NOTES:

- ▶ Notes & Questions: https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-12-05_cg.pdf
- ▶ Transcript: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-12-05.pdf>

▶ Upcoming #SalemOregon Gatherings

Christmas Together Gathering! December 19, 2021, 4:30pm <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/xmas>

▶ #forSalem DECEMBER Opportunity: Christmas FOR Everyone!

Gifts for Church @ The Park, Simonka Place, CASA, neighbors, friends and strangers. Pick one or do a mix! Find out more at: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/xmas/#xmas>

▶ Suggested Bible Readings:

1 John 4:7-12, Romans 5:6-8

► Music we listened to making this episode:

Autumn Burns Red- Oh Holy Night: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxDzqmmRGLU>

Josh Garrels- Gloria: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q73--8dbP_0

Garbage- A Stroke of Luck: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScNTxkT8e0k>

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