

In Time of Need

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Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“I have accomplished nothing. I have no hope. I am glad I am going to die.” A famous entertainer made this confession just before taking his last breath. This just reveals the desperation some people live with—even at the end of a life filled with much popularity and material success.

The reason for this is very simple: These people just do not feel loved. They have never recognized just how important they are to God. They do not realize what great lengths Heaven went to in order to redeem lost and dying souls everywhere.

I want you to see your value in and to Jesus Christ—His provision, His protection, and His compassion that never fails. That goes for each one of us. That is my purpose in producing this booklet.

Oh, if only we could understand our value in Jesus Christ! My prayer is that you will read

this very carefully as I trust the Holy Spirit to communicate with your human spirit so that your soul can enjoy being totally loved by God.

Chapter One

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE
RIGHT HAND

“With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah” (2 Chronicles 32:8).

“Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees” (Job 4:4).

“My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me” (Psalm 63:8).

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding

all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

When people mistreat each other, whether it is through false accusations or plain unkindness, it is because one person doesn't find value in the other person. Some people can attempt to justify their emotional reactions, but it just reveals that they do not recognize the value Christ puts on people.

Recognizing God's honor code reveals the value of another person. By seeing others in Christ, we have a manifestation of God's royalty through loyalty to truth.

Jesus Sat Down

By Himself, Jesus Christ purged our sins and then sat down at the right hand of the Father. Notice it: Jesus completed the work of our salvation, and then He sat down. The word there is "sat." He "sat" down and is "set" at the right hand of the Father because He endured the

Cross, because of the joy “set” before Him. That joy was our value to Him.

Very few churches in the world make an emphasis such as this. Many pastors and leaders communicate a message of grace motivated by love. But too few will thoroughly, fervently, humbly, and meekly relate how important it is that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us.

Jesus Christ strengthens us with His right hand. He upholds us with His right hand. He declares that we are seated together with Him, at the Father’s right hand. That is how He views us now no matter where we are spiritually, and He will view us that way for all eternity.

It was very important for Jesus to declare, “It is finished,” in John 19:30. He finished the work His Father gave Him to do, but that wasn’t the end of the story. It was so important that He was crucified. It was so important that He was buried. He committed His spirit into the hands of the Father. His soul entered into the gates of hell, and His lifeless body went into the tomb. All three—spirit, soul, and body—came together again when the Holy Spirit brought Him out of the grave (see Romans 1:4).

That still wasn’t the end of the story.

Ascending through the Atmosphere

In Ephesians 4:8, Jesus ascended up on high through the atmosphere, through crowds of demons of the air, passing through and stripping them off as they tried to attach themselves to pull Him back. All of hell tried to keep Him from reaching the right hand of the Father, where He would enter into His Session as our Advocate before the Throne of God. His Session represents the real Finished Work for sinners. He is now in heaven, pleading the Blood against the accusers that come against us when we fail.

Christ came for sinners. He received sinners. He ate with sinners. He wept with sinners. He died for sinners. He was raised for sinners. And now He is in His Session for sinners saved by grace through faith. He has finished the work for sinners.

God upholds us with His right hand even when—God forbid—we fail. To “uphold” is the proper term, because we can never sink below a certain place, for His hands are holding us. Underneath are His everlasting arms (Deuteronomy 33:27).

In every state that we are in, we remain in His Finished Work. Yes, our fellowship will not

be sweet when we are in the midst of failure. We will be disciplined when we continue in failure, but that chastisement is always exercised in His amazing love—the love of the Father toward His Blood-bought child. His Finished Work upholds us forever. Just as He died for us while we were sinners, so He upholds us forever, even while we are sinners on this earth.

Chapter Two
ESTEEMED BY GOD

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.

“I and my Father are one” (John 10:27-30).

I want you to understand Christ’s present help. He is a *present* help because we have eternal value to Him. Every person who is a Christian has eternal worth. We are worth so much to Him that our names are engraved on the palms of the His hands (see Isaiah 49:16). He is holding us up with the Finished Work scars that mark His glorified body. Those marks, which we will see for eternity, speak of our value to Him.

I can remember when a little child wandered

away from a cookout and fell into the water near our farm. A sixteen-year-old boy rushed to the pond, dived in and brought the child out. He gave the little one mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and saved the child's life. Do you know what that sixteen-year-old was to that little one? A very present help in a time of great need.

I remember another youngster who was abused by his uncle. The experience made the boy feel so ashamed as he told his mom and dad. For six weeks, the boy would wake up screaming in the middle of the night.

Finally, the family called in the pastor. The pastor spent hours with the boy telling him how clean he was. He just kept telling him that he was God's boy. He taught the boy songs to sing when he felt upset. The pastor taught him Scriptures and went out with the parents. Soon, a six-year-old boy was healed from weeks of nightmares. Today that boy is a Bible College student.

Oh, how God brings a very present help in the times of need.

God does not just want to help us tomorrow. He is our present help today through His perfect Finished Work.

A woman named Rose called our radio pro-

gram one day. She was in the midst of a terrible marriage, but then she started listening to our messages. Before long, her husband started listening as well. Where there once was a pattern of vindictiveness, this couple entered into a wonderful reconciliation. Their marriage became a love affair and a honeymoon all over again. The radio show was a present help for those two.

God's Honor for Us

It is so crucial that we understand how much God honors us. Even while we were on the road to hell, He honored us. "Honor" speaks of His decision to give us a place in His heart forever. He esteems us so highly—that is what honor means.

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

"And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day" (John 6:37-39).

Jesus told His disciples that He would not

lose them. Jesus could say to Peter, "I am not going to lose you" (see John 21). He said it to Paul, too, "I am not losing you!" (see Romans 8:31-35). He said, "I am not going to lose a single one who comes to Me. I will keep them all" (see Hebrews 13:5).

Beyond the treasure God has put into our earthen vessels, we have this tremendous worth to Him just because of who we are in His eyes. There may be days when you think you are not worth very much, days when you don't feel as spiritual as other days. Still, you have the same value, the same worth, the same love from the same God who is in you.

You have great value. He highly esteems you. He has a place for you on earth and a place for you in eternity. Those truths are forever realities.

Chapter Three

ROYALTY AND LOYALTY

“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” (1 Peter 2:9).

Royalty: that is what we are. We are members in particular of a royal family. It is the most amazing thing that God says of us.

Because of the royalty we have through His grace and the Finished Work, God’s loyalty to us is indescribable. Jesus Christ says to us, “I have honored you with My death, honored you with My forgiveness, and honored you by representing you in heaven forever. Now all that I ask is that you rest in My words and reveal this same honor one to another, under the same conditions and circumstances, at all times.”

God desires that we be kindly affectioned one to another. In honor, we prefer one another

(see Romans 12:10).

If we honor God, He will honor us (see 1 Samuel 2:30). We have such value to God that we haven't even come close to understanding. We have a worth that is amazing. Even on our worst days, our value does not diminish in the heart of God.

When a mother has a baby and that baby is sick or does something wrong, the baby's value to the mother doesn't change. The baby can't do anything about its sickness, but the mother takes extra care to help the child get well. That baby carries such value in the mother's heart.

The Waste of Hell

I was thinking today of the wasted years that go by for so many people. There are so many wasted moments, wasted days, wasted weeks, wasted months, and wasted years. As sad as all that is, that will not compare to a person's soul wasting in hell for eternity. That is wasting that will go on and on and on.

In Revelation 19:20, the beast and the false prophet were placed into hell where they were tormented day and night. A thousand years later, they were still there, according to Revelation 20:10.

That is the truth from the Bible about hell. Can you just imagine that? I mean in the heart of your soul and the center of your being, can you comprehend the torment of hell? A wasted soul created to live forever must spend eternity in hell, and all because he rejected Jesus.

This soul did have value. God so loved each one in the world that He sent His Son to die and to make a way for each one to avoid an eternity of wasting away in hell. Each soul has a hole in his heart that only God can fill (see Ecclesiastes 3:11).

When a soul goes to hell, all of the worldly appetites will remain with him. Those appetites, however, are never satisfied. The drug addict longs for his fix, but that fix of drugs will never come. The alcoholic pines for a drink, but he can't have his alcohol in hell. The materialistic person with all of his idolatry will never get what he wants. The lustful, the homosexual, all of the fornicators will long for what they used to have and it will never come to them again. All of this goes on in hell for eternity, all because those souls did not see how much Jesus Christ valued them, and they did not come to Him to be saved.

Compassion and Tears

This is why we should have compassion. This is why I sometimes shed tears at the pulpit and at the prayer altar. This is why we go after souls day and night after day and night. This is why I rise early in the morning and spend precious moments with God. This is why I make decisions way ahead of time to be in church Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night.

It is so crucial for you to be here.

I will never forget going into a coffeeshop and seeing my daughter there unexpectedly. She ran up, hugged me, and wouldn't let go. "If you could only know how much I love you," she kept saying with tears running down her face. Needless to say, there were tears running down my face, too. What was she doing? She was sharing with me my value to her, and oh what value she has to me.

This is what God longs to do for each one of us. He wants us to experience the depth, the breadth, the length, and the height of His love toward us. He wants us to know that He is a very present help at all times, especially in the time of trouble.

CONCLUSION

There are lost people all over the world. Here in Baltimore and in every country around the globe, people need to know their value to God. Every person has the potential to be saved and to be married to Jesus Christ, to be a part of His Bride forever (Revelation 21). So many precious people are lost. I don't care if they are on drugs or struggling with alcohol, we need to go after them.

Let's embrace them. Let's never give up on them. Let's never quit. Let's love them and never stop loving them. Love them long before you ever preach to them.

How do we get in through anyone's door? By loving them just where they are. We visit them and we keep going back. We help them and then help them some more.

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

A godly sorrow works repentance, and this is what it takes to be saved. Repentance speaks of having a change of mind.

If you are not a Christian and you are reading this, get saved today by changing your mind. Change your mind about self, about sin, and about God. Let the grace of God give you the gift of repentance. Pray and ask Jesus into your heart. Receive Him as your Savior, by grace through faith. Recognize that salvation is a gift from God, not the result of your own works.

Don't allow another moment of your life to be wasted. Get saved and walk in the Light. Cast all your cares upon Jesus, for He cares for you. He cares for you because you have such value to Him.