

Do You Know How Valuable You Are?

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These are days of conflict. Politically we have parties at war with each other. Academically, administrations and students seem to be in constant disagreement, often over issues having little to do with higher learning. And out in the world of work, stress and strife seem to be constant realities.

On any given morning, commuters are apt to confront problems that can endanger their very lives. Everything from road rage to washed out roads may be just around the corner. America has become so unfriendly, parents often dread the dangers that may await their kid on their way to school.

Watching the news can be a battle against despair. Daily, we are told of gruesome murders, workplace layoffs, and dysfunctional young people already hopelessly addicted to drugs, over eating and countless other harmful lifestyles. The kind of innocence and basic boy or girl scout good behavior I grew up with is a distant memory many modern youth would never believe.

A the root of so many of today's social problems is a misunderstanding of the value God puts on each and every human being. Too many people are afflicted with feelings of inferiority and even self loathing, which can lead to hopelessness and even suicide. Too many of our precious young people look out and see little worth living for, and that is a truly tragic.

I bumped into a quotation from George MacDonald in the June issue of *The Levitt Letter* that really opened my eyes to see one of the great causes of human unhappiness. Here it is:

“I would rather be what God chose to make me, than the most glorious creature that I could think of, for to have been thought about, born in God's

thought and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest and most precious thing in all thinking.”

The author of the column in which that quotation appears is John Parsons, who has a monthly lesson, teaching Hebrew from the holy scriptures. The scripture he was expanding on was Psl 119:73 “Your hands have made and fashioned me “

When one considers that he or she is important enough to have occupied a portion of God’s thought, where He put us on His drawing board, fashioning every part and function of each of us for an important role and contribution to the drama of life. David expands that idea amazingly in the matchless 139th psalm: “And in thy book, all my parts were written when, as yet, there was none of me.” Understanding that, it becomes impossible to diminish not only our own value, but the preciousness of every other human being, both in our own eyes and in the eyes of the God.

And, “Thou hast beset me both behind and before and laid thy hands upon on me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain unto it.” God is much involved in all we do: “For there is not a word in my tongue, but thou knowest it altogether.” Psl 139: 4.

What I think has happened is that “the common enemy of mankind,” Satan, “the accuser, the murderer, the father of lies,” whose stated function is to steal, kill and destroy, has established a voice among the many people he has convinced, are worthless. Some of these think they need to revenge themselves against those whom Satan have convinced are their enemy.

These become the rioters, the anarchists, and assassins who lie in wait to attack anyone they deem responsible for their plight. If they but knew the immense value God has placed on them, I think they would abandon “the ranks of death,” and devote their lives to “be about their Father’s business;” that is abundant, joyous life for every one of his children.

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