

Date: 3-21-21

Pastor Steven Hardy

Series: Beyond Philippians

Title: Your Value as His Church

Text: Acts 20:17-32

Outline:

The American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law by the president on March 11. It provides 1.9 Trillion dollars to individual Americans and businesses in an effort to relieve the devastating economic impact of COVID 19. It looks like “free money”—but of course there is no such thing. There is a cost, and it will be paid. The thoughtful assumption is that the **value** of this economic “rescue” is worth what it will **cost** us, our children, and grandchildren in the years to come. Value is assessed by cost, and that being the case you—the Church, and very specifically you who are Damascus Community Church, are of inestimable **value** in the eyes of God. Here is how we know:

- I. The value of the Church is evident in the cost of its **ACQUISITION**, Acts 20:28.
- II. The value of the Church is evident in the cost of its **ADVANCEMENT**, Acts 20:24-27; 33-35; see Philippians 1:12.
- III. The value of the Church is evident in the cost of its shepherds’ **ATTENTION**, Acts 20:28-31.
- IV. The value of the Church is evident in its ultimate **ASCENSION**, Acts 20:32; Acts 1:6-11; John 14:1-4.

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, when we will remember Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem to shouts of “Hosanna”. That will be followed by the passion week, remembering on Good Friday our Lord’s crucifixion, and on Easter his resurrection. Our theme is hope, and that eternal hope is grounded in the blessed truth that Jesus purchased our redemption with his own blood on the cross. That inestimable cost is the measure of our value to God.



Pretend you are going to have a garage sale, and have family members put a price tag on various items they might sell. What does the price they would ask tell you about how much they value something? Do they have anything they just could not put a price on, meaning it is “priceless”—of greater value to them than could be paid? Now, suppose you have that garage sale and some items don’t get purchased. What does that mean about their value to others? What does it mean when someone tries to talk you down on the price? Talk about the relationship between a price paid and value, and then talk about our value to God. Refer to 1 Corinthians 6:20 and Romans 5:6-11.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT, STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. One interesting way to contemplate cost as it relates to value is in the area of wages. In what sense does salary, the amount paid for a particular service, reflect the value placed on that service by society? Think about some in America who are highest paid, and those who are lowest on the wage scale. What does this tell us about values in our culture?
2. Think about some of the things you have purchased, perhaps recently. Describe why that particular acquisition was worth the purchase price to you—what made it have that value? What have you passed on purchasing because it’s value to you simply did not measure up to the asking price? What does it tell you about the value of our redemption when you contemplate what it cost God (John 3:16)?
3. Disciples who truly understand the value God places on people, and his desire that they be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), embrace the reality that they should pay whatever price may be necessary to engage personally in the advance of the gospel, as God “assigns” them. From Acts 20:18-35, list what it cost Paul to pursue this mission. What does verse 24 indicate about the particular ministry of Paul? How can one identify the “course” and ministry they have received from the Lord Jesus? What price might God ask you to pay in finishing your course?
4. The elders of Ephesus were charged to shepherd (ESV, “Pay careful attention to”) both themselves and the flock, the church of God. As you review this passage (Acts 20:17-38), what are some of the tasks, needs and concerns these shepherd/elders are to attend to? Would you consider church elders “essential workers”? Would you pray that God will raise up men to continue the shepherding care of his flock at DCC?

NEXT WEEK: – Short-Sighted Hope, Luke 18-19

© 2021 Damascus Community Church

www.damascuscc.org