

# RELIGION

## Spend more time hanging out with Jesus

By Scott H. Carr Sr.  
Special to the News

How do you measure your value in this life? Do you judge it based upon your financial portfolio? How about assessing it by your position on the social strata? Is the amount of "toys" you possess your measuring stick? What about your looks or abilities? Do you gauge your value by how busy your calendar is with events? What is your value based upon?

I would like to challenge you today to make and take some quiet moments this weekend to take an honest look at who you are and who you aspire to be in the future.

Notice, I used the word "who," not "what." If you are trusting in Jesus and his cross alone for your salvation, then his priority with you is your heart. You are not a human-doer. You are a human-being. He cares more about your relationship with him than about how much you are doing for him or any of the other measuring gauges you might be attempting to use to base your value.

You are precious and valuable to him. This truth is revealed in Jesus'

### PASTORAL VIEWS

sacrifice for us. He wants us, not what we do in this life.

Does this mean that we are not to be busy doing what he has planned for us to do on a daily basis in the building of his kingdom? Of course not, but he is much more interested in our surrender to his loving embrace and transforming of our hearts to the image of his heart.

Mary and Martha were two sisters who hung out with Jesus. One day he was at their home for dinner. Martha was like so many of us. She was doing all the right "stuff." She was preparing an appetizing meal for them, but Mary was just sitting at Jesus' feet and spending time with him.

Martha got extremely upset that her sister wasn't doing the "important" work of preparing all the details of their meal. Notice that Jesus' reply to Martha was that Mary had chosen the important thing: spending time with him.

Our value is to be measured by the cross. It is there that God poured out

his wrath on sin and his love on humankind. All he wants is our surrendered hearts as a sweet aroma to Him.

If you judge yourself on any other merit, you will fall pathetically short. But, if you run to the cross of Christ, you will be accepted because the ground at the foot of the cross is level for all! He will never turn you away or shut you out. He is always ready to gladly receive all of us because of his grace. Then, as we love him and follow him, his spirit will change us into the image of Jesus.

I challenge you today to ask him to give you a vivid revelation of how he sees you through the eyes of his precious son, Jesus. Begin to spend more time with him. Invest your time into the only important thing in life. You will never be sorry.

I fear that too many disciples of Jesus are caught up with many wrong perspectives today. Some of this stems from subconsciously thinking that we need to do instead of be for His glory.

What does all of this have to do with a mother's value? It's simple. Many women today compare them-

selves with the wrong people, wrong values or wrong things.

I encourage you as mothers and daughters, as well as us fathers and sons, as humans created in his image, to spend more time hanging out with Jesus, who knows how he created us to bring him glory and to enjoy him forever. Look to him to show you that you are worthy of his love because he initiated his love to you by dying for you while you were still dead in your sins.

Yes, you are lovely to him and he desires you as his dearly loved child.

You are highly valued and loved by your "Daddy God." Let him hold you, love you, and reveal himself to you as you regularly spend time with him and follow him as his disciple.

Remember, God wants us to love him with all of our beings and our neighbors as ourselves. Our service should flow out of our love relationship with him, not out of religious duty and the "business as usual" approach to the seemingly mundane routines of daily living.

He desires our hearts, not our rituals. Obedience is far better than sacrifice in regards to what he values.

Our living is not about us, but about him and his grace extended to us through Christ.

Psalm 51:16-17 says, "You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God."

Repent (turn away from) of your sin and trust Jesus Christ as your personal savior and lord. He loves you unconditionally with a sacrificial love. Christ showed us how to love, so go and do likewise by lovingly following him and helping others along the way to do likewise as you give yourself to him and share him with others.

What is your value? Look to Christ and his cross and know that you are priceless!

Rev. Scott H. Carr Sr., of Scott Carr Ministries, is a member of Carll's Corner Community Fellowship. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 994, Bridgeton, NJ 08302, by phone at (856) 455-9734 or via e-mail at [scott@scottcarrministries.com](mailto:scott@scottcarrministries.com).