

WHOSE VALUES DO YOU CHERISH?

Note to the speaker:

Help audience appreciate that if we do not have a good relationship with Jehovah, the Giver of life, whatever goals we achieve will be temporary at best. Since our goals depend on what we value the most, embracing the Bible's values is what will bring everlasting rewards

MOST SEARCH FOR VALUES THAT GIVE LIFE MEANING (5 min.)

It is natural to want to achieve something that is worthwhile and brings satisfaction (Ec 2:24a)

Goals are pursued in hope that their achievement will bring contentment and a sense of accomplishment

Our values determine our goals and our priorities

If our values are proper, we will set worthwhile goals and realize them (Php 1:10, 11; w04 7/15 21-3)

If we treasure valueless things and set unworthy goals, we are sure to experience disappointment (Pr 12:11)

It is good to analyze our values to ascertain where they are leading us

GOALS SOUGHT BY THE MAJORITY REFLECT THE WORLD'S VALUES (10 min.)

Many place high value on wealth and thus may set only materialistic goals, such as getting a well-paying job and investing earnings strategically

Lives built around material goals are filled with disappointment (Pr 23:4, 5; 1Ti 6:9, 10; w02 4/15 5-6)

Jesus pointed out the folly of such goals (Lu 12:15-21)

Some place a high value on fame and prominence and may seek to attain recognition through higher education or the cultivation of unique talents or skills

Educational goals stress learning from the worldly-wise

World's wisdom is empty, especially when compared with God's wisdom (1Co 3:18, 19; Col 2:3, 8, 9)

Pursuit of fame engenders a spirit of competition, which is divisive and causes contention (Ga 5:26)

Fame fades, and it cannot give life to its possessors (Ec 2:16)

World places high value on excessive recreation

This reflects their lack of hope (1Co 15:32)

Many act as if they were not accountable for how they use their bodies (2Co 5:10)

Love of worldly pleasures does not bring lasting satisfaction; avid pursuit of such results in emptiness (Pr 21:17)

THE EXCELLENCE OF THE BIBLE'S VALUES (20 min.)

Since everything is valueless without life, the highest values are those associated with maintaining a good relationship with the Giver of life (Ps 63:3; w01 10/15 15-16)

Maintaining that relationship requires:

Taking in knowledge of Jehovah and his purposes, acquiring divine wisdom and understanding (Pr 3:13-18; Joh 17:3)

Doing God's will (Joh 4:34; 1Jo 2:17)

Obedying God's laws and commandments (Pr 3:1, 2; Ec 12:13, 14)

Developing godly qualities (Mic 6:8; Ga 5:22, 23)

Bible values put emphasis on spiritual goals (w04 10/15 3-7)

Whereas the world promotes accumulating riches, the Bible teaches us to be liberal and ready to share (1Ti 6:17-19)

Thus, we set goals to give of our time, energies, and valuable things, seeking God's Kingdom first instead of material things (Mt 6:19-34; w99 4/1 6-7)

Although most humans known by men are soon forgotten, those known by God are remembered, with eternal life in view (Ec 9:15; Mal 3:16)

We therefore aim to make decisions in life that will help us to acquire a good name with God (Ec 7:1; w03 8/15 3)

While the gratification that comes from merrymaking is temporary, the result of pursuing godly values is true joy now and the prospect of eternal happiness

Accordingly, we seek to live and work with others in a spirit of love and unity (Ps 133:1; Col 3:12-14)

SEEK VALUABLE THINGS THAT BRING EVERLASTING REWARDS (10 min.)

Vital that we view things spiritually rather than physically (1Co 2:14-16)

Physical values focus on shortsighted goals that offer little

High value placed on things due to pass away (1Jo 2:15-17)

Lives built around such values will soon end

Spiritual viewpoint reveals what is truly valuable (Php 3:7, 8)

Pursuit of Scriptural values has already brought peace of mind, loving relationships, satisfying work among Jehovah's people (Pr 2:6-9)

Those who treasure Bible values are assured of a happy, secure future (Ps 16:11)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)

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TO BE COVERED IN 45 MINUTES

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