

Intrinsic Worth

And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. (Dt 4:19)

He has given those things to every man, not just to Israel. But it is idolatry to see those things as having sense or feelings or intrinsic worth within themselves due to their own process of thinking. Some people look at certain animals that way. Spirits attach themselves to just about anything and can make you sense something that is really not valid. Even your own opinion of yourself can be from an evil spirit making you think you're fat when you're not, and then you kill yourself trying not to be fat when you're already skin and bones. That is an example of how a spirit can make you see something different from reality.

Rom 1:22-23 — Even though our Father made those things for them, they need to worship the true God and Creator who made them, but they worship the creation instead of the Creator. Dt 4:15-16 — Our Father took care *not* to show them any form when He spoke to them, so they would *not* make carved images for themselves in the form of any creature. None of these things are created in the image and likeness of the Creator, but only man. An animal is not, the sun is not, nor the moon or stars — nothing is created in the image or likeness of the Creator except man, so therefore they have no inherent or intrinsic worth within themselves due to the fact that they don't make any choice to be corrupted or not.

A tree might die for some reason, but it didn't make a choice on its own. It didn't say, "I will not suck up this water and nourishment with my roots; I will do something else." It doesn't make that decision; it doesn't have that intrinsic value as man does. Man has a choice. Man is the only creature that has a choice in the matter of whether he will maintain his likeness of the Creator or not. Nothing else has that choice.

When we feel that we are offending an animal or tree or something, as if the tree has some kind of power to communicate, and we start communicating to the tree that is not made in our Father's image, it has become an idol. Most people who have dogs they are idols to them. They talk to them as to their companion, their best friend. It is a spirit.

There is a difference between clean animals and unclean. The goats won't even eat anything off the ground because they're clean. A horse will, but a goat won't. They just ignore it. They are our servants and they don't want to pick up any diseases and give them to us. That is instinctive; it is not as though they make a choice, "Well, I'd better not do that because I love my master." They have value, but not that intrinsic value.

Intrinsic value is the worth of a man or a woman in his or her fundamental nature which is uncorrupted and still holds the likeness of the Creator. It is the essential inherited quality as in Gen 3:22. Retaining the knowledge in Gen 3:22 is what maintains man's inherent, intrinsic worth as a human being valuable to the Creator. They choose their value, they choose their worth, but a tree doesn't. A tree just does what it is programmed to do; and animals are led by instinct, not reason. You can train an animal, and it knows it had better do it, or it will be whipped, but it is a conditioned response, not a moral choice.

It may seem that children are trained the same way, but they have intrinsic value because they make their own choices. Inherent means a permanent essential element or quality that is intrinsic or inborn within us, but it can be corrupted. Rev 22:11 indicates the final state of people's character or worth according to how it was formed by their choices in life. They will be that way *still* or remain that way eternally; they are fixed and they can't get back what they have lost, no matter how hard they try. Once a person goes over the waterfall, he can't bring himself back up the waterfall and start swimming upstream again. He allowed himself to go over the waterfall, because he made his own choice to quit swimming upstream.

Man is the highest creation. You can chop down a tree without incurring bloodguilt. It doesn't say that if you kill a tree you are going to be killed yourself. It is only for killing man, because man bears the image of our Father, so if we treat man badly then we are treating our Father badly. If you treat a tree badly, or an animal, or anything else in creation, it shows something haywire within us that we don't appreciate our Father's tree or His animal that He made for us. It shows our loss of intrinsic value even to do that, but it is especially serious in relation to a person who is made in the image of our Father and has maintained that — not that we are to judge who has maintained it and who hasn't. There are a lot of people we might feel have lost their image and likeness of our Father, but still can be saved. We just don't know.

Rom 1:21 says they "knew God," but really nobody *knows* God except the Redeemed. This is talking about the natural man, and the word *knew* here means they perceived the truth about Him through creation, but then verse 18 says they suppress that knowledge. They don't want to think about it; they want to get it out of their mind.

Rom 1:21 — They *became* futile — it is a transition, a process that happens over time, slipping downstream by not exerting effort. Everyone will float downstream if he doesn't exert effort. That is why people like Job are really honorable (Job 14:14), that they would go through great suffering in order to maintain the likeness of their Creator. I always liked that about Job. He wasn't an Israelite, but a man of the nations. "If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my renewal comes." After all the days of his struggle his renewed life would come — somehow he knew that. He was a man who lived by our Father's vice-regent in his heart (Rom 2:14).

Man is the only creature that can communicate with the Creator, not that natural man has a reciprocal communication. They don't have our Master Yahshua, but they can honor the Creator, and even praise the Creator, and even pray to be saved or know who He is, and certainly He hears them and it causes things to happen — grace comes to

them, causing them to meet one of us, or get a freepaper, or something of that nature. This has happened hundreds of times in the last thirty years.

So man is the only creature that can communicate with the Creator, not that they have a reciprocal relationship outside of Messiah, but our Father can see a man's willingness. In Acts 10:35, our Father saw Cornelius, He saw his life — he wasn't an Israelite, he wasn't a disciple, but our Father saw him. He approves of such people; they are welcomed. Our Father saw that man and sent Peter to him. He doesn't neglect man as if he were some depraved creature whom God has no regard for. Our Father saw his willingness, that he wanted to serve Him, but didn't know what to do, so He sent Peter.

We're going to see thousands of people just like that come to us, and we'll be sent to them. That is why we send out walkers. Peter saw this man and thought, "Wow! This man is amazing!" He saw this man and welcomed him. A lot of people think God doesn't care what happens to man outside of Messiah, that He doesn't even regard man, but that is not true. This is why we are inculcating this into our children, so they can grow up and understand this. No one else understands this in the whole world, and everyone is under the power of Calvin and Augustine. We are bringing people out of that to the true God. We want to justify Him, because His name has been dragged through the mud because of them. Those who were baptized by John justified God (Lk 7:29).

In Rom 1:21-23 it says that even with all the evidence of creation people still refuse to recognize their Creator and glorify Him as God. Ps 19:1-4 is really amazing. Creation speaks, it talks, it never quits, it's always talking. Rom 1:20 — So there is no excuse. Not one single human being on the face of the earth will ever have an excuse, no matter where he lives, because our Father has put that knowledge in man inherently. Man has intrinsic value and worth and the power to determine his eternal destiny, to discern what is right and what is wrong.

Our Father can see man's willingness and conduct according to what is written in the books. The books in Rev 20:12 record everything man has done, everything he has

said — every secret thing is recorded in the books (Rom 2:16). This is the Three Eternal Destinies of Man; you've heard it a hundred times, but it has to be inculcated into you, because our Father can't send His Son back to the earth until this is spread abroad. As long as people do not know about the Three Eternal Destinies, our Master cannot return to earth. Our Father is not the way people have made Him out to be.

So the moon and the stars have no thought about the Creator, and they cannot represent Him in a personal way, but they show forth His handiwork to us. They are servants in that sense, but they have no intrinsic value of their own, for they are not able to choose to do good or bad, or whether to shine or not to shine any particular day. The sun cannot say, "I don't want to come up today." It doesn't have any choice. The sun and the moon are set in order.

Only man is made in His likeness, although he has fallen short from the glory he once had. It is an amazing revelation to understand about the nature of our Father, and the nature He has put into man, and nature itself. We have to appreciate these things. That plant right there, what is it doing? It's giving us oxygen. Man is caring for it. It is not caring for itself, going to the water fountain every once in a while and getting itself some water. Is it getting adequate sunshine? If it is starting to wilt and we don't even notice, something is wrong with us — we're being corrupted. Poor thing, I almost think it has feelings and I could feel sorry for it. I could try communicating with the poor little thing, but I can't do that because it doesn't have any feelings.

ha-êmeq — There is a scary spiritual realm right past what our eyes can see. A lot of people dabble around in it, like mediums, as in the story of King Saul. We never get into that realm because we stay on the safe side of darkness, but there is another side. Some people get into it and actually figure out how to work with it, like mediums, but that is all evil. A spirit can come in and turn those goats or those plants into something that we think has feelings. We think about them in a personal way and don't want to offend them. We mistake their instincts for volition.¹ It is so important

¹ Volition — the faculty or power of using one's will.

that we realize that potential is there, and that we stay on the safe side of the spiritual realm. It wasn't a mistake that we have that commandment.

Baruch — When a creature has a choice, the value of that creature is so far above anything else in creation, just by virtue of the fact that it makes a choice. Our Father pays attention to our choices. That is what establishes value for a created being. When someone makes a choice to fall on his face and say, "I need to be saved," our Father is obviously paying attention. Then He sends grace in some way, shape, or form, so he can find what he is looking for.

Our Father is watching our choices, whatever they may be, and He is watching the choices of those in the nations as well. He pays attention to them, because that is where the value of a human being is established. Those who make wise choices, and in the context of our life, spiritual choices, they have glory upon them. That glory is the weight or the value based on the choices they make. But there are others who make poor choices, and you can see that their glory gets less and less, and their value becomes smaller and smaller, until they become depraved. Depraved means without any value — the unredeemable man.

How much value do those have who choose to give their lives to our Father and continue to give their lives to Him through the choices they make? How much value does a person have in comparison to a tree that can't make any choices? It can still contribute to our life, and animals can contribute to our life, but the great value is on those who make choices.

Shelevah — It is good that we can learn these things in this day and age when so many people are becoming depraved, especially in the realm of animals. Since I have had children I've noticed when meeting people that if you ask whether they have any children, they start talking about their dog. It's as though their dog is their baby. They either have children, or they have a dog, one or the other. It just made me sad and so thankful that we are going to be a light in this dark age.

Keli — I'm thankful that we're being given insight into the spiritual realm. It is going to help us untangle people from fallen ways. People who have dogs instead of children probably are just afraid of duplicating themselves, and they know that dogs aren't going to be a representation of who they are. They are deceived and twisted. It is a spiritual twisting, something that happens in the spiritual realm and comes out in the physical realm. Instead of acknowledging our Father they start putting intrinsic value on inanimate or senseless things, and the twisting begins there. Once it starts there is no end to the twisting the evil one can do from there. People start thinking

trees have nerves, and then they start tying themselves to trees so that others won't cut them down. So then they start seeing people as trees and start treating trees like people.

Isa 24:5 is prophesy. It is incredible what is going to happen in the last days. This is just the beginning. This is a great time right now compared to what is going to happen in the coming years; this is just paradise. So while the earth is declining we have to rise up and be its lights.

Acts 24:25 — Paul was talking to Felix about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment. We have to exercise self-control in so many things every day in order to increase our character and our intrinsic worth to our Father, because judgment is going to come, and He is going to judge the times we didn't have self-control in what we've done and what we've thought and what we've said. What do we think about someone who is poking along in front of us? Or you're behind someone, and the light turns green and he doesn't notice, so he sits there for five or six seconds, and you want to blast your horn at him. Righteousness, self-control, and judgment — a man has that ability and accountability, but the moon and stars don't. Animals don't have self-control, but they do respond to gentleness.

If we treat people well then we'll treat animals well, but the reverse doesn't apply — we could treat animals really well and treat humans badly. We are the very likeness and image of the Creator. If we are treating humans badly, then we are treating our Creator badly, and He takes note of that. He also takes note of the way we treat animals, but if a person treats animals well and humans badly, He takes note that he is perverted.

ha-êmeq — Elisha opened the eyes of his servant just for a second to see what was going on in the spiritual realm. Normally, we just see in these certain dimensions; our eyes aren't geared to see the spiritual realm. But the spiritual realm is there, and we are not the only ones who know that. Lots of people know that there is a big potential for evil in that spiritual realm. You know people that you wish would get better, but don't, and you realize there has to be something else going on there. People are going crazy. Some unkind person tells a girl she is fat, and she starves herself to

death, and in her last breath she says, “I’m so fat,” when she’s skin and bones. You have to conclude that there is something we can’t see.

If we let that spirit into the door of the community it is so evil, and any of the women here that is listening to that spirit is evil. We don’t want that spirit in here, or a disciple telling another disciple that our Father doesn’t love her, or that she’s ugly, when this is where we are saved from that spirit.

We need the Body of Messiah to be doing its job, speaking the truth to one another, and we believe it. She believes it when I tell her that she is not fat, that she is a normal person. “Oh, something was telling me that I’m as fat as can be and I need to starve this baby in my womb...” Spirits are telling people that because they hate that baby. Those spirits hate that baby and would like her to get so self-conscious about how many pounds she is gaining that doesn’t she care about the life of her baby anymore. There is a spirit talking to her, and it starts to convince her, so she looks in the mirror and thinks she is gaining too much while the baby is craving food and nourishment. And she says she’s trying to lose a little weight... It’s a spirit! What else could it be?

We have to realize that these spirits are bent on destroying us, and let our eyes be open to see it for just a minute, like that servant of Elisha. Then you say, “Oh, yeah — that is what is going on!” And then that view closes up, but you can hang on to it, because later that spirit will come to you again.

Baruch — Can you imagine if we actually had someone in the community that was running around saying such things, going up to someone and saying, “You’re so fat! It is just disgusting how fat you are. Why don’t you go on a diet?” If you had someone like that in the community you would grab him and throw him out the door, because he can’t live here. But somehow we have to be those with perception to see in the spiritual realm, and grab that spirit and throw it out the door in the same way.

It is something we are going to have to deal with as we go along because the enemy knows his fate. Due to us putting all our Master’s enemies under His feet, Satan will be cast into the abyss for a thousand years, and then let loose for a time before he is cast into the lake of fire forever and ever.