

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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WORTHY THINGS

Larry R. Ping II

The idea of “worthy” in the Bible is the idea of “being entirely deserving.” Consider these “worthy” things of the Bible.

1) WORTHY TO SUFFER SHAME FOR HIS NAME. Luke recorded, “*And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name*” (Acts 5:41). The “they” here are the apostles, who had been previously warned, “*Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us*” (Acts 5:28). They responded by saying, “*We ought to obey God rather than men*” (Acts 5:29). This brought about the persecution mentioned earlier. It is to be considered a good thing if we are worthy, or deserving, of such persecution. When Paul and Silas were persecuted and imprisoned, they “*prayed, and sang praises unto God*” (Acts 16:25). Jesus reminded, “*Blessed are ye, when men*

shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matt. 5:11-12). The question is, are we worthy to suffer shame for God?

2) WORTHY OF DEATH. The apostle authored, “*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them*” (Rom. 1:28-32). Those who practice sinful lives are deserving of death, eternal separation from God. Sadly, the Bible reports, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the*

glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). It is true then, each one of us is worthy, or deserving of spiritual death. But for the grace of God, and the gift of His Son (Eph. 2:5,8; Jn. 3:16), there would be nothing we could do about it.

3) WORTHY OF THE VOCATION WHEREWITH YE ARE CALLED. Paul reminded the Ephesian brethren, “*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph. 4:1-3). The divine thought here is of the fact we carry Christ’s name, which is deserving of a faithful life. It doesn’t any good to wear the name of Christ, but not to live Christ-like! In fact, such living destroys the opportunity for good. May we embrace the same attitude of Paul who said, “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave*

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himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). Jesus deserves my living a “transformed” life (Rom. 12:1-2). Is he getting such from us?

4) WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

The Bible reports, “Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer” (II Thess. 1:5). The kingdom of God is a reference to the church (Matt. 16:18-19). The Lord’s church is deserving of members who walk according to God’s Word. If today you are a member of the Lord’s body, then remember the Hebrew writer’s admonition, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:24-25). If today you are a member of the Lord’s body, then recall, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away

from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph. 4:31-32). The Lord and His blood-bought church (Acts 20:28) is worthy of our righteous lives. How is yours?

5) WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOUR.

In writing about elders and their work Paul stated, “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward” (I Tim. 5:17-18). It should go without saying, elders should be highly respected for their work (Heb. 13:7). The idea of “double honour” in this piece of writing carries with it the idea of financially supporting an elder, especially one who dedicates himself full-time to the work of shepherding. The book of Hebrews informs its readers of the elder’s important work when saying, “Obey them that have the rule

over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Heb. 13:17). Be sure the elders who are watching over your soul know how much you love and respect them.

6) WORTHY OF ALL HONOUR.

Timothy was told, “Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed” (I Tim. 6:1). The New Testament often reminds those who are “employees” need to respect their “employers.” They are worthy, or deserving of such. Paul reminded, “Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” (Eph. 6:5-6). It may not always be the easiest thing to do, but living these passages is right to do, and may lead others to Christ. What say ye?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm