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WHAT GOOD AM I?

We've all been there, sitting in a quiet place, left alone with our thoughts. Then little by little invasive, darkness begins to shroud our thinking, leading to questions like, "what good am I anyway?" Seeking to push back against such self depreciation, the mental exercise begins; a listing of attributes to try and justify a sense of worth. Something of value. But somehow anything positive is pushed to the wayside and the perverse pleasure of a self imposed "pity-party" ensues.

The list is extensive (at least in my case), as the focus is on "what happened?". I used to be able to easily hit a golf ball over 250 yards. Likewise in times past I could hit a 90 plus mile per hour fastball. But the golf ball doesn't soar like it once did and I would be lucky to get around on a 60 mile per hour pitch in a batting cage. What good am I?

I can relate to Paul when he wrote to the Corinthians, in chapter two and verse one. *"And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God."* There is recognition on my part of not being the most eloquent of speakers. Nor do I possess the mental acuity of others. The list could go on and on, but it all ends up with the core question, what good am I?

Enough is enough. Life is far too short to flounder around, in a mental quagmire of negativity. So what if there are things that neither you nor I are no longer capable of doing; does that diminish our worth? Absolutely not! With redirected thinking it is possible to come to an awakening wherein we see things in a spiritual perspective. *"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is*

a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (2Corinthians 5:17)

New things have come, which is a direct result from the fact that God sees in each one worth and value. A value that was ascribed when we were engaged in hostilities toward God. *"But demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8). What good am I? Well, apparently good enough that God saw worth and value, inasmuch as Jesus was willing to pay the price for sins. Notice how John phrases it in 1John 2:2, *"He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but for those of the whole world."*



Hold in your mind that in the eyes of God He sees in each one of us value. Regardless of what others may think, or even if you think

"what good am I?" God longs for the best for each one (see 2Peter 3:9). Considering that God sees value in me (and you), we cannot afford to slip into an attitude of self depreciation. *"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)."* (Ephesians 2:4-5)

What good am I? That question should be left far behind, especially for one who has been adopted into the household of God (see 1Corinthians 12:13-31; Ephesians 4:14-16), a valued member of the body/family. This all brought about by being clothed with Christ in the waters of baptism (see Galatians 3:26-29). Each individual part of the body is necessary and valued; each plays a role in the proper functioning of the body. (wbc)

THE BULWARK