

# The Bulwark

JULY 13, 2025

## SO, EXACTLY WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

There is a wonderful, lighthearted short-story by O Henry, entitled the "Ransom of Red Chief". The story centers around a young boy, from a wealthy family, who is clearly spoiled and hyperactive. A ransom note is sent to the boy's father demanding \$2,000 for the return of the boy. But shortly thereafter another note is sent, lowering the ransom to \$1,500 as the boy has proven to be a handful to say the very least. The father, who knows full and well his son and his high jinks, refuses to pay. In fact he offers to take his son back, if they will pay him \$250. The kidnapers "happily" pay the money and the howling boy is returned home.



-19)

So, against the backdrop of that fictional tale, consider a true example surrounding Julius Caesar, when he was kidnapped by Cilician pirates in 75 bc. The pirates demanded a ransom of 20 talents of silver be paid to secure young Caesar's freedom. When Caesar learned of the asking price, he laughed and said they had no idea of who he was, and they should ask for 50 talents of silver. In fact he insisted the ransom amount be raised. Why would he do such a thing? The answer is obvious, he believed in his heart of hearts he was worth more than 20 talents of silver.

So, what are you worth? Paul reminds the brethren at Corinth, *"You have been bought with a price..."* (1Corinthians 6:20) Our worth is not measured in monetary value, moreover it is measured by what our Heavenly Father has done on our behalf. The ransom price paid to set us free from the clutches of Satan (sin) is explained quite clearly by Peter in the first chapter of his first epistle. *"Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."* (v 18

The author of Hebrews was striving to get those to whom he was writing to come and appreciate the value of Christ; and correspondingly to recognize their own worth and value. In chapter nine and verse fifteen, the author notes that Jesus is indeed the mediator of a new covenant and has with His blood provided to those *"who have been called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance."*

All praise be to our heavenly Father that in us He saw worth and value. So much so that He gave up His Son to die on the cross, to be victorious over the grave in order to ransom and rescue us. Therein is worth. Never sell yourself short. Remain focused and press on toward the goal. (wbe)

Take note of what pens in Romans chapter five, *"while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."* (v 6) More over he goes on to note, *"For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life"* (10). Quite remarkable to say the least when you come to recognize the worth and value that God sees in you. Our worth manifested even when engaged in hostilities toward God, yet He was willing to pay the ransom price.

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- 7054 Winnetka Ave.  
Winnetka, CA 91306
- 818-795-5566
- Bruce Evans,  
Minister
- Website:  
[www.winnetkachurchofchrist.com](http://www.winnetkachurchofchrist.com)