

LAMPLIGHTER

FEBRUARY 2009

THEME: “Under God’s Watchful Eye”

LUKE 12:6-9

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Matt. 10:29-31 NIV)

Dear Valued Members of God’s Family,

We live today in a throw away generation. If something has become useless or broken, we simply discard the item and get a newer and better model. As we look at the economy of today, we see the devaluing of the American dollar. The stock market has dropped off dramatically. Retirement funds have become depleted. Many have commented for some time now that the dollar does not buy as much today as it did at one time. One used to exit a grocery store with many bags of goods, but now we come out with one or two bags for the same amount. What are some of the things today that have lost their value?

Civilla Martin, who wrote the lyrics to “His Eye is on the Sparrow,” states: “Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We developed a deep friendship with a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle—true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for almost twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheelchair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle’s reply was simple, ‘His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.’ The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn ‘His Eye Is on the Sparrow’ was the outcome of that experience.”

For some it is easy to think that they are no longer valued or that God has forgotten about them in their distress. Mrs Doolittle has been bedridden for twenty years and her husband confined to a wheelchair. Surely they must have been plagued with such thoughts occasionally. How do you define your value or worth? Is it by what you did as a mother, father, husband, wife, banker, carpenter, etc? Is it by what you accomplished in life – like Michael Phelps who won eight Olympic gold medals? Or is it by some other form of measurement?

Read Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Read Isaiah 43:4** – Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. **Read Matthew 6:26** – Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? and **10:29-31** – Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. {30} And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. {31} So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. How are we described in these verses?

Our value and worth is not defined by what we are or by what we have accomplished. Our value is determined by who we are in Christ. We are loved by God and precious in His sight. We are honored and valued by Him.

As we consider the many themes throughout the next months (living with change, living with stress, etc.) we will be coming back to this thought over and over again – we are Under God’s Watchful Eye.

Close with prayer, the Lord’s Prayer, Benediction, and Song – #53 “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”