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“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday – July 10, 2022**

## **The Things Above ...**

What is the best way to determine the worth of an item? How can we determine the things that someone values the most? Is there a better way to consider these questions than to look at the price one is willing to pay? We pay the greatest price for the things we value the most. What percentage of our income goes towards housing, food, insurance, vehicles, phones, entertainment, etc.? Why? Because we have deemed these things as worthy of the price they require. One of the most moving realities that Scripture reveals is that humanity is unimaginably valuable to God. How can we know this for certain? Consider the price He was willing to pay. *“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.” (1 Peter 1:18-19)* We have been “redeemed” (“bought back”) from our sin and made into *“a people for God’s own possession.” (1 Peter 2:9)* What was the price God was willing to pay to accomplish this? We are typically fascinated by the financial cost one might pay for an item. It is identified that the price God paid for our redemption was far greater than any amount of silver, gold, or monetary wealth. Our redemption required the most precious thing God possessed, the life of his perfect and spotless Son. In a world where so many are desperate to find value and worth, we learn that all those things are found fully in Christ. Our value and worth are discovered exclusively in Him. When we consider the length God went to purchase our redemption, how could we ever doubt the love He has for us? When we marvel at the price He paid in full for us, how can we question how valuable we are to Him? When we look to the cross where that precious blood was shed, how can we not give ourselves fully to the One who gave His everything for us?

- Kason Lawrence