

Appraising My Investments

All Have Things we Value

- put a number on what it's worth – appraisal
- different ways of establishing value
 - actual
 - sentimental
 - age / availability / condition
- where you live would change the value of an item
- we lose perspective on what matters to God – and appraising our lives and what we invest in.

“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand what is right and just and fair – every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.” Proverbs 2:1-11

Appraising My Investments

1. Taking Inventory

- show me your day timer and bank book – see values
- examine what we are willing to invest in – results

a) Attitude Towards God

- ‘accept my words’, ‘store up my commands’

b) Attentiveness To Learning

- ‘tuning your ear’, ‘applying your heart’

* wisdom, understanding – of extreme value to life

Appraising My Investments

2. Talking To God About Your Life

- inventory often reveals actual counts – shows truth

a) Acknowledge Your Need

- ‘call out’, ‘cry aloud’ – for insight & understanding
- priority of prayer in the moving of God in our lives

b) Align Your Efforts

- ‘look for it’, ‘search for it’ – valuable and hard to find
- active in desire and search for God to deliver

Appraising My Investments

3. Valuing What God Grants for Us

- seeing some things as valuable and worth having

a) Relationship

‘understand fear of Lord,’ ‘find the knowledge of God’

b) Resource

- wisdom, knowledge, understanding, protection, guidance, victory

c) Results

- see life choices clearly, peace about our choices, ability to make choices carefully and clearly

Appraising My Investments

So What

1. Regularly Need to Take Inventory

- what have I allowed to become important in my choices?
- Attitude towards God's Word – is it essential, compelling
- Attentiveness to God's Word - tuning in, applying?

2. Do I Have A Real and Practicing Prayer Life?

- is my first call to God for insight – show me what's up
- do I cry aloud for understanding – help me get it!

Appraising My Investments

- do I search for this as one looking for valuable treasure, hidden things of great worth?

3. Am I Valuing What God is Granting to Us?

- Relationship – knowing almighty God personally
- Resources for Life – all I need for what I encounter is found in this place, do I know where to turn for these things?
- Results – am I clear in seeing what is right, just, fair?
 - do I enjoy wisdom, does knowledge bring pleasure
 - are my choices and relationships guarded by discretion?