

You are Special and Priceless.

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

July 19, 2020

One of my joys I have enjoying doing lately is sending a birthday greeting to Fairfield Grace family and friends via email and texting. A google calendar is amazing. It reminds me without any mistake who is celebrating his or her birthday daily.

Just saying, "Happy Birthday to you" seems to be too simple and plain. The other day I encountered a simple but perfect sentence printed inside a birthday card. It goes, "You are special. I wish your day is as special as you are." Perfect. That is exactly I would like to say to my special sister and brother in Christ. "You are special. I wish your day is as special as you are."

You are special. You might say, "Me? Am I? What is special about me?"

"Am I not just one of 7.8 billion people living in this world?" "Am I not one of many, many people who were born sometimes ago and will disappear from this world when the time comes like a morning fog?"

On top of this, I am terrible. I made a lot of mistakes. Everything I attempt fails. I am a failure. I am not useful anywhere. I do not see anything good about me. I am just good for nothing. I am heavy. I am too short. I am too tall. I am ugly. My illness is so serious and my body is so aching, that I wonder why I am still here. I am a burden to everyone. I am special? No. I am a pain in the neck to my family and my friends."

"Stop. Stop, my friend." Now I would like to ask you this question. "Who gave you the right to evaluate yourself?" Since you are not your own creator, you have no right to evaluate yourself. Yes, only God, your Creator has a right to make an evaluation of you.

Let me explain you what I mean. Here is a \$20 bill. If I were to give this bill to you, would you find it useful?" I am sure you say, "Oh yes" Now I will take the bill and scrunch it up several times and then ask, "Would you still like to have it?" I am

sure you say, “Yes!” again. Now I drop the bill on the floor and step on it several times. “Would you still like to have it?” Without hesitation, you would say, “yes.” You have answered yes because you know that the maker of this bill, the United States government, will stand behind this bill even it is filthy or roughed up or stepped on.”

Likewise your maker is God. His evaluation of you is constant, even if you are dirty, roughed up, or stepped on. When God created you, God posted an invisible tag on the chest. There is no dollar figure on that price tag because dollar figures don’t go high enough. There is one word on your price tag. That word is “priceless.” That’s your real net worth.

Are you special to God? Yes! Do you really matter to God? Yes, of course, without a doubt. You are special and priceless in God’s sight. How do I know? The Bible tells us so.

Let me share what the Bible says about you and how special you are in the sight of God.

FIRST, You are special and priceless, because you are God’s marvelous creation. The Psalmist acknowledges God’s beautiful and wonderful creation work, saying, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.” Psalm 139:13-14

The Darwinian evolutionists would have you believe that God had nothing to do with your origin, that you are just an accident of nature. “Not so,” says the Bible. “You are fearfully and wonderfully made by God.”

How do you open your smartphone or laptop computer? You need to type in the password you created for your privacy protection. Lately I got a new laptop computer. I found out there is another way to open my computer. That is using my fingerprint. No one can open my computer, for everyone’s figure print is unique and different. Isn’t it amazing? Everyone is uniquely created by God, our Maker.

There is one more marvelous and special fact about us. God spoke these words to his servant Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart.” (Jeremiah 1:5) You heard it right. God knew you before God formed you in the womb. Wow. We were God’s idea before our mother conceived us. Wow. When we look in the mirror in the morning, we are gazing at an original and marvelous creation of God. Hallelujah!

Because every person is originally God’s idea, no one is ordinary. Every person on earth is special and priceless. Yes, the waitress or waiter who serves you at the restaurant is special and priceless. The custodian who cleans this building, Eloy is special and priceless. The homeless person who sleeps in the street is special and priceless.

Our neighbor is the holiest object you will ever see. Who do you see out in the street? Do you see a white person? She is special and priceless in God’s sight. Do you see a black person? Do you see a LGBTQI person? Do you see a Native American? No race is superior to others. No one is better than others. No one is on top of anybody. Everyone is special and priceless, for we all are beautifully and marvelously created by God.

Here is the second reason for believing that you are special in the sight of God. You bear an amazing resemblance to God. Genesis 1:27 reads, “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Being created in the image of God has two meanings: First it means that we humankind cannot be separated from God. We are meant to stay connected with God. We become meaningless and aimless when we are detached from God. Its second meaning is that we do have a resemblance to God. Though sin has distorted our godly image, we are still reflections of God who is loving, just, kind, caring and generous. We bear an amazing resemblance to God.

Born as an identical twin, I had a tough time when I was in the elementary school. My peers made fun of me and my brother, Albert, because we looked alike. But

bearing resemblance to God is not a laughing matter, but a wonderful matter, for having divine capacities within us, we are somebodies to be respected and honored. We are special to God.

Furthermore, we need to be reminded that all the people we live in the world, including all of us and all the different races bear an amazing resemblance to God. In a sense, we humankind are identical twin sisters and brothers who bear in common an amazing resemblance to God.

Namaste. This is the verbal greetings people do in Hindu culture with putting two hands together in front of the chest. It is more than a simple greeting. Namaste literally means, "I bow to you..." The spiritual meaning of namaste conveys that "the divine in me respectfully recognizes the divine in you." Namaste invokes the feeling of spiritual oneness of heart and mind with the person one is greeting.

Do you see you bear God's beautiful and wonderful traits within you? Do you see God's resemblance in your family members, friends and neighbors? By honoring and respecting all the people, we honor and respect God who has created all of us in His image.

Lastly, we are precious and priceless because God so loved us and came to us in the person of Jesus Christ and saved us from the bondage of sin and death. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

We are not only created, but also loved by God. God has set us free from the bondage of sin and death by the redemptive ministry of Jesus Christ on the cross. The apostle Paul reminds us, saying, "19 You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

So we honor God who has set us free by living and loving God and one another. We honor God who set us free by loving, forgiving and accepting one another and living in harmony and peace with one another. Yes, we are God's honorable representatives and instruments of love, peace and hope as long as we are here in this world. That is why we are special and priceless in the sight of God.

You know Michelangelo's "David," that 17-foot-tall statue. Some might visit Florence, Italy to see it in person. Michelangelo created David from a huge block of marble that had been quarried 25 years earlier in northern Italy. Actually two other sculptors, di Duccio and Rossellino, had attempted to work on that block of marble, but they had given up, claiming that the quality of the marble was inferior and not good enough. But when Michelangelo worked on this block of marble, it became "David." Likewise, God, the Creator did make a wonderful work on us out of nothing and made us a special and priceless masterpiece.

Are you special in the sight of God? Of course, you are.

May your faith journey in this world is as special as you are.