

Like the Bicycles

*"When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**" (Mark 2:17)*

Jesus did not come to purchase the worthy. He did not come for the ones that look really good. Jesus came to call sinners to repent!

In reality, we are all like that second bicycle. Our lives are all a mangled mess of sin.

Yes, some of us look like that precision bicycle. It appears that we have everything in just the right place... but the reality is...

*"For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23)*

*"As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:**" (Romans 3:10)*

Jesus did not die because we were **worth it!** He died to **pay the price** for our sin and **give us His value!**

It is **all IN CHRIST!**

CONCLUSION...

Do not look at the Scriptures with eyes of humanistic understanding, that is what the Pharisees did. Seek to understand the Bible with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sadly, many today try to comprehend the

Bible with carnal minds. For example:

*"For what is a man profited, if he shall **gain the whole world**, and lose his own soul? or **what shall a man give in exchange** for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)*

Modern Christians often teach that this verse (and others) are commentaries on the tremendous value of humanity.

Historically, this verse has been understood as a commentary as to the unbelievable heinousness of man's sin.

The modern view says that man is so valuable that it cost God the **Blood of Jesus** to purchase us.

The Biblical view says that man's sin is such a stench and so vile to God, that nothing but the **Blood of Jesus** could pay the debt.

Which do you say it is?

Is man **so valuable** that we are worth the **death of Jesus?**

Or is God **so Holy** that no other price could pay the **debt of sin...** only the **Blood of Jesus?**



By: Robert W. Dallmann

*"Being **justified freely** by **His grace** through the **redemption** that is **in Christ Jesus:**" (Romans 3:24)*

God's grace is truly amazing...

...Underserved favor

...Based completely upon God and Who He is

...Incomparable

...It cannot be earned

I recently heard a sermon about God's amazing grace. This message reminded me of a portion of a paper that I wrote many years ago in Bible school. I believe God gave me an analogy that may help us understand His love for us and grace towards us.

Here it is...

A Tale of Two Bicycles

The First Bicycle

This bicycle was manufactured in a state-of-the-art factory. This factory was devoted

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GRACE IS AMAZING

solely to the production of the finest bicycles in the world.

Many of these bikes were purchased and ridden by champion cyclists. Numerous first place trophies and ribbons were won by those riding these bicycles.

Perfection was the goal of those making these bikes. Everything had to be just right. Balance, gears, shifting, weight... all needed to be flawless.

When these bicycles finally were shipped to bicycle sales stores, they were often marked at a price of \$10,000!

The Second Bicycle

This bicycle was purchased at a major department store for about \$50. It was ridden by the owner for many years and saw much wear and tear.

One day the bicycle was parked on the side of a mountain road. A truck swerved off the road and smacked the bike over the edge of the cliff. The bicycle smashed and tumbled off the side of the mountain and into the rapidly moving river below.

This bicycle was swept away by the current and crashed over the waterfalls and was wedged into the rocks below. It lay stuck on the bottom of the river for many years.

Which is Amazing?

A wealthy millionaire entered the precision bicycle shop and purchased the bike for the marked price of \$10,000.

An unfathomably wealthy trillionaire recovered the rusted, wrecked, garbage bike from the river's bed and purchased that bike for \$1,000,000.

Which is amazing?

Is it amazing that a wealthy man bought a \$10,000 bicycle for \$10,000?

Or is it amazing that an unbelievable rich person paid \$1,000,000 for a completely worthless pile of twisted and rusted bike?

Naturally, no one would do such a thing... that would be unbelievable... amazing! Spiritually, this is a picture of what Jesus did for us!

Grace is Amazing!

God's grace is amazing because...

He purchased that which was **worthless** and paid the **infinite price** of the **Blood of Jesus!**

If you and I were **worth** the **shed Blood of Jesus**, there would be nothing amazing about God paying that price.

Some Say - We are Worth the Blood of Jesus!

There are some who teach that we were **worth** the sacrifice of Jesus... to God.

Think about this concept... is it possible that we can even embrace the notion that any of us is so valuable as to be **worthy** of Jesus and His death?

Limiting God to Human Thinking

As human beings, we love and value things to which we ascribe worth. Normally, that which we value are such things that do something for us.

Perhaps it is a person that we love, because they also love us. Maybe it is a job that we find fulfilling, because it provides for our needs. Possibly, we value an automobile, as it gives us transportation.

Humans ascribe worth based on tangible realities... because the thing valued and loved meets some type of real or perceived need.

God is not like that! God loves... because He is love.

*"...for **God is love.**" (1 John 4:8)*

God's love is not motivated, it is not increased or decreased, because of the value of the thing He loves. God's love is beyond human understanding... **far beyond!**
