Godliness - Part 2 Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

A. It is the heritage of every person to be totally liberated from bondage, totally motivated and completely fulfilled.

B. Two hindrances to this: unjustified feelings of guilt and feelings of inferiority and unworthiness before God and man.

C. We are to think and feel about ourselves the way that God does. (Acts 22:8)

II. Who is it that wants us to follow Him?

A. God knows the number of the stars, and would multiply Abraham's descendents like the number of stars. The individual is worth more than many sparrows that God looks over, and he has numbered the hairs on his head. (Psalm 147:4; Genesis 16; Luke 12:6-7)

B. God knows the name of the stars, and He knows your name. He gives to each of us who are Christians a new name. When we hear that name in heaven we will know that no one else is around and that God is speaking because it is a secret name. (Psalm 147:4; Revelation 2:17)

C. God knows the purpose of the stars and made them all different. He made us all different as well. One of the purposes of the stars is to orchestrate God's symphony. Like humanity the music comes when everyone contributes their right note at the right time. We were each made to accomplish a specific purpose that will bring harmony to his program. (1 Corinthians 15:41; Job 38:1)

D. God is opposing the proud and giving grace to the humble. God has also been putting an innumerable amount of thoughts into your career plan. No one is born on accident nor without purpose.` (James 4:6; Psalm 139:14-18; Ephesians 2:10)

III. What God wants us to do.

A. We are to turn someone from the darkness of Satan to the power of God. (Acts 26:16)

B. The result of our work is to deliver people out of darkness into light.

C. Three suggestions:

1. Discover your individual gifts or talents. God gives gifts and then he calls Christians (Romans 11:29)

2. Dedicate your gift. The example of Erwin Moon's gifts used for God's glory. God never gave you a gift to frustrate you.

3. Develop your gift as you develop your Christian character. The key to Samson's development was the Spirit's coming upon him. Like Samson we are to use our spiritual gift to defeat the evil one. (Judges)

D. Jesus Christ is worth following whole heartedly—He has a plan.

IV. Conclusion.

- A We are to press on like the chariot driver in Philippi. (Philippians 3:13-14)
- B. We are to follow Jesus with this same enthusiasm.

Application questions.

1. How does God look upon the individual? What worth are we to see in ourselves and others based upon this?

2. What is God's primary objective? How do believers' gifts contribute to the mission of God?

3. What is your gift? Have you taken steps to dedicate and develop it? Make a plan to either find your gift or start employing it among believers and nonbelievers. Share your plan with a friend.