



# APPNOTES

**Date:** July 2–6, 2018

**Series:** This I Believe

**2 Corinthians 8:9** Everyone loves a good “rags to riches” story. The lowly servant overcomes hardship and oppression to wake up one day a Prince or Princess. There are so many real-life stories of celebrated people who started with very little and worked their way up to greatness. The story of Jesus is the opposite. Out of love for us, He traded riches for rags so that we could have undeserved riches. He not only gave up His Kingly status, He also suffered immeasurable pain. He sacrificed His human life so that we would be able to enter the kingdom of God. The world measures wealth and success by very different terms. We can only achieve true greatness by accepting Christ and choosing to live for Him

**John 1:14** No one has changed the course of history like Jesus. Even our calendars reflect the influence of His life. Yet most people have no clear understanding of His mission. We lump Christianity in with every other religious system as simply another set of rules and rituals. But, Jesus was God coming down to us when we could not get to Him. Christianity is the only religion where one does not have to earn salvation. Jesus’ incarnation was the greatest expression of love. One of the clearest ways of expressing love for someone is to spend time with them. Jesus cared enough to come to us, let’s also take the time to get to know Him.

**Hebrews 1:1-3** As a sunbeam is the radiance of the sun, Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory. Not only a great leader or wise teacher, He is the “exact representation” of the unseen Creator. He was there at creation and will reign forever in heaven; He is the Alpha and Omega. How blessed are we that He would give up His majestic home to purify our souls? There is nothing God needs from us, nothing we could do to earn His kingdom. Yet He loved us enough to send His Son to suffer for our sins. Jesus loved us enough to experience excruciating pain and dehumanizing ridicule. Our only responsibility is to accept His gift!

**Colossians 1:13-14** We all love that moment in the story where, just when all hope is lost, the hero swoops in and saves the day. This passage of scripture illustrates the narrative of the Gospel as the ultimate rescue. “He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.” When we are in the depth of sin and despair, Jesus is there to lift us out of the mire. Through His unconditional love and sacrifice, we escape

imprisonment of eternal darkness. How fortunate for us that we get to experience the supreme and eternal rescue. Accept Christ's heroic gift of freedom. His sole purpose is a soul purpose!

**1 Peter 1:18-19** The true value of any object is what someone is willing to pay for it. Shows like Pawn Stars and Antiques Roadshow feature people who show surprise or disappointment at the real market value of their 'treasures'. Our value in the eyes of God lies in the cost of our redemption. God's unconditional love for us culminated in His sending His Son to die for our sins. Along with securing our salvation, Jesus became human to teach us humility and self-sacrifice. The fact that He came down to us proves how valuable we are in Gods eyes. Accept Christ and surrender to the One who made this downward journey FOR US!

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