

THIS IS THE SUM

By Don Krider

Heb 8:1-2 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

SUM = Conc. #2774 = a principal thing; the main point.

Of every thought of your mind and the intent of your heart, what is the sum of it? Of all the words that you speak, all the songs you sing, all the life that you live, when it is weighed out, what is the sum of it? The only thing that we should aim at is the sum of our total being to glorify God.

Paul said, "I have written you, I have told you about the hope of a better covenant, a better priesthood, a better promise, a better sacrifice, a better rest, a better profession, and a better testament. I have told you all of these things and the things that have accompanied salvation; but the sum of all I have written you, when we stand before God and He sums up the total of our lives on His adding machine, what will the sum be?"

What is the sum of your life? What is the sum of your thoughts? What are the sum of your speaking, your walking, your living, and the very intent of your heart? If the Lord called you home right this minute and added up the total, what would the sum of your life be? "Now of the things which we have spoken, this is the sum:"

Everything else we ever do in this life, when it is totaled, amounts to nothing. The only thing that God is going to give us any reward for, and the only thing that brings peace in this present day, is when a man can daily look at the sum of his life and see how God was glorified in it.

Have people seen a high priest in your life? Have we told people that there is one that can answer their problems, one that cares for them, one that loves them? Have we taken a brother or a sister that was down and encouraged them by saying, "Look, all the things that are happening, all the work that is going on, the sum of it is simply this - WE HAVE SUCH A HIGH PRIEST. A high priest that gave us a better covenant. A high priest that gave us a better hope, a better testament, a better rest and a better resurrection." A HIGH PRIEST!

The sum total of our existence should be that we glorify God in our body and in our spirit. When we

1

hold conversation with one another, God is listening to our conversation. When we have thoughts in our innermost being, our heart, that no man can see, God sees it. He totals it up and the question is: what is the sum of it? Is it profit or loss?

Mat 16:26 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?

The sum total of that is DISASTER! But the sum of serving God with a righteous, fervent heart is **ETERNAL LIFE AND JOY FOREVER MORE.**

Paul is not saying that **someday** you will have a high priest. He said, "That isn't why I am writing you this great letter; that isn't why I am showing you this great truth. It's so that you know now that you have a high priest." God gave me a scripture in Rev 3:20; let's look at it.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

When He comes into our daily lives, what is the sum of what He finds there? Does He find a cold meal, a yesterday's blessing, murmuring, complaining, backbiting, a devouring table spread. Or does He come into our life daily, sit down with us where we've spread the table before Him and we say, "Lord, here is a pie of PRAISE, here is a steak of VICTORY, here's a glass of the OVERCOMING WINE. Does He add us up to find that the sum total that we offer Him is nothing? What is the sum total of your life today?

Paul said, "I've told you all of these things, that you have a PRESENT help in trouble, a HIGH PRIEST. You need not murmur, complain, gouge, backbite and argue with one another. You need to let Him come into your life and add up the sum of it." When the sum of it is that you are just looking for the High Priest, and that's all you are looking for (the High Priest of our confession which is Jesus Christ), what do you think people see in your life?

Isaiah 6:1 says, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."

The sum total of that statement was simply this: Uzziah was dead, but the Lord was high and lifted up and others saw Him. What do people see in our lives as the sum total? We might have done fairly well in this life, or we might not have been too successful, but that is not what people are looking for anymore. People are looking for something beyond their own abilities. They've tried government, they've tried everything else and it all fell apart. Men are looking for something or someone to DELIVER them.

If our lives are empty of all the cares of this life, and we are not trying to prove that we are anything in this world but are continually glorifying God, and He is high and lifted up, men will look and say, "There is an answer; that man has an answer. He hasn't made a lot, he hasn't really achieved a lot, but there is one thing about him: he has continual peace."

I don't want to write a book on how to be successful and overcome. God has already written it. Hallelujah! What I have to do is live it. I need to enjoy it and rejoice in it, but I cannot as long as the

2

total in my life is not Jesus Christ. If the total of the goal in my life is anything but Jesus Christ, I am going to miss the mark.

Heb 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: (this is the total of it.) We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Don't short-sell yourself. We want a preacher to do it for us, or we want a deacon board to do it for us, or we want an elder to do it for us, and that becomes the sum of our life. We are always talking about that preacher. We are always talking about that group of people. We are always talking about this one or that one, and that's the sum of our total being. Jesus wants you to come straight into the throne

through Him and speak of Him. He wants you to come unto God by Him, that your credit is not given to a multitude of people, but the glory is given to God. He said:

1 Cor. 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

I can distract if I continue to talk about a brother or sister, though I be positive or negative, because I am taking away from the glory of God. I could lay my hands on you and your legs could jump out six inches, but I didn't do it. GOD DID IT! But you see, the sum total of our lives so many times is not the word of God that's in the vessel, but the vessel itself becomes too important. We need to come to a grip with this thing and see what the sum total of our life is today. Does my thought, my speech, my life, my walking, my moving, my being, does everything about me glorify God? The sum total of the thing is this: I have a HIGH PRIEST!

Somebody asked me one time who takes care of me. My High Priest takes care of me. Who provides? My High Priest provides. Who is my life? My High Priest is my life. Hallelujah! I have no complaints, I have nothing to murmur about, I have nothing of a bad report. I want it to be added up every day, and I want the total to be Jesus Christ. HE LIVES! Because He lives, I live also.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The sum total of our existence, our speech and our talk should be to glorify God. There would be a lot less splits in the Body, there would be a lot less arguments, a lot less hurts, and a lot less divisions in families if the sum total of our lives was Jesus. Somebody bumps you on the nose so you go home and tell your wife or husband what a lousy thing is happening to you, and pretty soon that same spirit that you've got jumps on them.

You decide to set it all straight, and all of a sudden the sum total you're looking at is a mess. It's all going to be added up, but it's going to be added up on God's calculator. When He punches the total button, I want it to say, "GLORIFIED THE FATHER!"

Paul said, "Of all that I've written, of all that I've said, and of all that I've done, I want you to know the sum total of it all is we have a High Priest." Not an earthly priest that passes away, but one that sits on the right hand of God, and liveth ever to make intercession for us.

3

Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Heb 7:24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. (25) Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

How cheated we become always wanting someone else to pray for us. The human person just wants you to know what kind of terrible thing he is into. He wants you to know so you can pray for him.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the body of Christ would rise up, God would add up the total, and all He would find in the total sum was Jesus Christ?

When we prayed, we could pray for those who really need to be prayed for, those who could not pray for themselves, and those who could not reach out. We could obtain that mercy of priests of God and give it to those who have no mercy, instead of spending our time trying to stab one another.

We need to add up the total by the Spirit of God, examine ourselves and see whether we be in the faith or not. This is the temple of the living God.

1 Cor. 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

What dwells in here? When God opens the doors and comes in to eat with me, after I have given Him the permission to walk through that door of my life, what does He find in there? When He adds up the total of my life daily, what does He find in there?

Does He find the cares of this life and the burdens, murmuring, complaining, devouring, and backbiting? Does He find everything of the world in there, instead of what He wanted to find?

He says, "I was hungry, and you didn't feed Me." He was talking about more than just feeding the physical members of the body; He's hungry for fellowship. He's hungry to come and sit down with us and glorify the Father with us. He wants us to come right into the throne of God, right into His presence and minister unto Him. We have to spend so much time cleaning out the corners of our lives, and by the time the service has gotten into a high-praise worship, we're still sweeping.

What has the sum total of your life really added up to when you look back on it? Maybe it's just a few short years, maybe it's a long time, but when you stand before the Master and He presses the total button, what will He find? I hope He finds a whole lot of Glories and Hallelujahs in mine. I hope He finds a lot of victorious trials in mine; a lot of warfares that have been won through the blood of Jesus Christ. The thing God is looking for, first of all, is the blood of Jesus and then if I've been faithful to serve the Lord in this tabernacle.

Jesus Christ is not just an earthly priest; He is way beyond that. He is sitting down on the right hand of God (**Heb 10:12**). He is the minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle. Who are the tabernacle? Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and you are the temple of God, the true sanctuary. He is the minister, the only rightful minister. He is the only one that has a rightful place to

4

stand in your sanctuary and minister.

1 Pet 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen!

If anything else comes out of your mouth, then you are standing up instead of Jesus Christ. David had an awesome reverence of God that the church, who supposedly has the Spirit filling them, doesn't have. He said in Psalms:

Ps. 141:3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. (4) Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

Ps. 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ephesians 5:18-20 says:

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; (19) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Jesus has the right, the God given right, because of the blood that He shed and the powers of darkness that He overcame, to stand in His sanctuary and tell me what He wants me to do. In Matthew 10:18-20 Jesus spoke to His disciples:

Mat 10:18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. (19) But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. (20) For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

If the Holy Ghost really speaks through us, He brings Unity, He brings Love, He brings straightforward doctrine of the word of God. But if a man speaks of these things, it is always slanted to appeal in the final end to the natural man. When the Holy Ghost preaches the Word of God, it knocks the natural man out. It causes him to die; it destroys that natural man!

There is only one person that has the right to stand in your tabernacle that you've presented to God, and that is Jesus Christ; and when He stands there, He glorifies God in your body and in your spirit.

The total sum of these things is that somebody has to lose an identity. Years ago I preached a sermon on having double identity problems. A brother in the Lord said to me, "Guess what the Lord expects of you if you're going to follow Him. Deny yourself, lose your identity, take up your cross and follow after Him." Die to self and come alive to Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost ministers the word and it brings life and it brings spirit.

5

It's not me ministering to you; it's the Spirit of God in this tabernacle purchased by HIS OWN BLOOD and He has the right to minister whatever He wants to minister through it.

"A minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man." This tabernacle had better be obedient to the one who built it, the one that pitched it. You don't go where you want to go. If you do, no matter what you think, that is rebellion. "Well listen, I've got my own program and I'm going to see that my program gets carried out!"

With that attitude you get a broken arm and a black eye, and when you get in the "mully grubs" long enough you will say, "God, you can have my program. I want yours."

Every day we should add up the total of our life by the Spirit of God and see how much of the sum of it was this: WE HAVE A HIGH PRIEST!

If I have a complaint I go to my FATHER. If He needs to take me to the woodshed to correct my thinking, He'll do it. If I have something I need straightened out, I go to the FATHER and He straightens it out. I want Him to be glorified. I want Him to be the sum total of my existence. HE IS MY LIFE.

Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

We are not our own. He pitched the tabernacle; I had nothing to do with it. He brought me into His tents. He brought me into His love. He chose me, He called me, He foreknew me.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

He purchased the right at Calvary to dwell in this earthen vessel and to speak the Father's word through it, just like He dwelled in Jesus and spoke the word through Him.

How many of the things you have spoken testify of Jesus? How many times have you said, "I wish I had never said that?" Why? Because the sum of what you said was garbage. It might have been in a pretty package, it might have looked good, but when someone reached out to take hold of it, it fell apart on them. It had no lasting substance.

The way you know that the word of God is coming through a man is to taste and see if it has substance. See if it stays with you. See if it corrects you. See if it has something in there that brings life to you even though it may hurt your flesh, destroy your pride, or may cause you to go to your knees. See if that word of God vibrates through your heart.

When Jesus spoke, they knew He had authority because it was the same Lord that said to Moses:

Ex. 17:5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine

6

hand, and go. (6) Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

It's the same God that stood on the edges of darkness and spoke:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (2) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (3) And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

That same God dwells in us, but He must have preeminence. Uzziah, King self, must die so He that has purchased us can stand up in us and minister unto God. The only acceptable praise God will ever receive is when the Holy Ghost stands up in us and praises the Father. For years I thought I needed a middleman, but that means I don't need a middleman anymore.

I was always taught that you needed a preacher to do something for you, or you needed a miracle worker to do something for you. I need the Body of Christ to be complete in. I need the Body of Christ to rejoice in.

When I do need a healing, I need the Body of Christ that the healing might be there; that miracle might be there. I cannot do it without the Body of Christ.

There have been many men that have pitched other tabernacles. There have been men that have built other beautiful temples unto God, but that wasn't what God wanted. God wanted a LIVING stone. God wanted a heart of flesh. God wanted a warm body that He could move around in, that He could dance in, He could praise his Father in.

HE is the Head of the body. He wants a body (a sanctuary) that looks like the Head, that can rejoice when the Head rejoices, can sing when the Head sings, can PRAISE GOD when the Head praises God, can feel the mourning of others when the Head feels the mourning.

I'm talking about a vessel that is yielded to God that He can be glorified in. It may have a lot of miles on it. It may be wrinkled and kind of stooped over, but that doesn't make any difference. If you are five feet tall and bald-headed, or if you are seven feet tall and have a funny nose, God is not looking at that.

1 Sam 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

He wants you to give your body to Him, and He will glorify Himself in you.

We need to have a spiritual face lifting and I'm not talking about plastic surgery. We need to have a face that is lifted to the glory of the Lord! We need to have a head that has been changed.

Ps. 24:7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King

7

of glory shall come in. (8) Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Do you know why we don't see more body ministry in the church? There are a lot of bodies trying to minister, but we have it all mixed up. We think we are active and that's "body ministry." My nose is in your business, and your nose is in my business; so we are busybodies for God.

But God wants ONE BODY MINISTRY. For every member in that Body who has something from God at that particular moment, the other member will be so much in tune with the same Spirit that he can step aside and the other can speak.

Years ago I was asked to come to a church and preach. The Pastor allowed some young brother who wasn't really a preacher, to get up and speak, and I was insulted. I thought, "Bless God, I was the one they called to preach. Who does this young kid think he is? Who is this guy in my peanut butter jar?" But as soon as I started listening to him, I realized he was saying the same thing I was going to say, only he said it better because he didn't have any "package" on it.

I was going to present it and it would take half an hour to get the package off (the big words I was putting in it to cover it up) before you could eat what I had. When you got the sum total of it you would have a "peanut." The Pastor was more in tune with God than I was.

God has the right to speak through you. Give Him that right. Let Him exercise His authority through you and people will say about you also, "He speaks as those who have authority. He is not a tape recorder. What he says is fresh, it's new, it's good, and it's exactly right where I needed to get zapped."

Praise the Lord! Amen!

WHEN IT IS ADDED UP, WHAT SHALL BE THE SUM TOTAL OF YOUR LIFE?