



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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## Worth It All

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

According to Reuters news agency, Daniel Lehner and his wife, Remy, were married December 12, 1993. Evidently they believe in celebrating anniversaries in a big way. Before commemorating their first, they made plans for their second: they would attend their favorite play.

But just going to the play on their second anniversary was not enough. They wanted to make a grand gesture. More than a year in advance, they bought tickets for every seat in the house of New York's Majestic Theater. That's 1,645 seats, valued at over \$217,000.

Daniel and Remy demonstrated love through their extravagant gifts. True love gives. The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He gave. . . ." When we understand the value of God's selfless, sacrificial, and free Gift of love, worship is a natural response. Jesus died in our place — that deserves more than a hat tip. He deserves our all.

Instead of giving our all, we often give what's left. Our time is so consumed by our careers, families, fitness, or possessions that we have little left to spend with God. The same goes for our money. God literally loved us to death. That's why He doesn't settle for divided loyalty. He wants us to love Him first. He wants us to love Him most. He wants our lives to declare He is worth all we have to offer, because He is.

If your life priorities were in a race, would God finish last? Review your check register, receipts, and bank statement over the past two months. Consider how you spent your time during the same period. Have you been living as if He is worth it all? See that your life and lips declare this truth to be reality today.

## The Wonder Never Grows Old

*Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? 13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? **Isaiah 40:12-13***

What would it take to scare a horde of drinking reporters sober? A well-executed rocket launch will do the trick. Jacob Needleman wrote about his experience watching the night launch of Apollo 17 in 1975:

The countdown came and then the launch. The first thing you see is this extraordinary orange light, which is just at the limit of what you can bear to look at. Everything is illuminated with this light. Then comes this thing slowly rising up in total silence because it takes a few seconds for the sound to come across. You hear a "WHOOOOOOSH! HHHHMMMM! It enters right into you. You can practically hear jaws dropping. The sense of wonder fills everyone in the whole place as this thing goes up and up. The first stage ignites this beautiful blue flame. It becomes like a star, but you realize there are humans on it. And then there's total silence.

People just get up quietly, helping each other up. They're kind. They open doors. They look at one another, speaking quietly and interestedly. These were suddenly moral people because the sense of wonder, the experience of wonder, had made them moral.\*

This is the wonder of a spaceship. Its glory is temporary, yet its size and power humble us. Now imagine standing before the Creator of the universe. At His word, everything came into existence. The oceans could fit inside the hollow of His hand. He could weigh Earth's mountains and hills in a scale.

Feel small yet? This perspective of God's greatness forms the foundation for worship. Worship celebrates God's authority over our world and our lives, and declares our dependence upon Him. It rejoices in His unconditional love and grace, demonstrated

when He gave His Son to die in our place. The sense of wonder never grows old.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt used to say as he gazed at the stars, "Now I think we are small enough!"\*\* Meditate on God's greatness long enough, and you'll feel the same.

\*Moyers, Bill, *A World of Ideas*, New York, Doubleday, 1989.

\*\*From *The Book of Naturalists* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1944, page 234).



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**PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011**

**847-909-8543/biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net**