

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

A Call to Invest

### Speaker:

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### Date:

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### Scriptures:

1 Peter 2:1-10

**Theme:** Invest in the people of God because they are precious to him.

**Introduction:** Correctly appraising what is truly valuable in this life is part of our being made in the image of God. That includes how we think about the value of the church, and its place in God's affections. We see its value, for example, in Peter's interactions with the Lord following his resurrection (John 21:15-17). For the rest of his life, Peter obeyed the Lord's command, caring for his people. In his first Epistle, we see how he valued the church.

Here are 3 observations from Peter's text:

### 1. We are part of something entirely precious

Those who have trusted in Christ have been joined to him and to his people. We are God's precious possession, saved into "a holy nation."

We are saved individually, but we are not saved into individualism. Our salvation is far greater than any one individual. We are part of the redeemed.

Our worth is found in the precious blood of Christ, not in our intrinsic worth. He ransomed us through the extrinsic value of his sacrifice for us.

We must rightly understand and value ourselves in light of God's assessment of us. Our worth and dignity is found in him and his word: we are precious to *him*.

### 2. We are must always invest

Christians are called to be good investors, good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Therefore, we must press into his church with love and service. We are called to a self-giving love that is not ultimately motivated by receiving the results and rewards we desire in this life, but by how we value the Lord and his glory (cf. Matt 5:46-48). This requires forgiveness, patience, and faith.

### 3. Our finances are a part of our investment

The Bible is not squeamish in addressing the topic of finances. Neither should we be: how we earn and spend earthly treasure reveals the state of our hearts. "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). True disciples open-handedly seek ways to invest in the people of God and what God values.

We need to bring our finances into our fellowship and growth as Christians.

### Questions:

1. What place does the church of God have in your affections and values?
2. Is there any bitterness or resentment that is keeping you from loving others in the church?
3. Do you give to the Lord joyfully and in faith? How would you like to grow in generosity?