

“THE BEST VIEW”

We're constantly comparing ourselves with others. It's human nature to see how we stack up in the particulars of life. But is it the best measurement? Is this affection really an affliction?

THE RANKING OF MAN

① _____.

Notice a pattern in these “firsts”:

1. man/woman → their _____.
2. son → his _____.
3. patriarch → his _____.
4. high priest → his _____.
5. king of Israel → his _____.
6. disciple → his _____.

In man's evaluation of himself, the _____ of sin distorts the perspective and _____ the picture.

② _____.

Notice the direction of scripture:

1. __, not __ great commandments (Mt. 22:37-39)
2. great invitation of _____ (Mt. 16:24)
3. refuting of _____ - _____ in life (Mt. 16:25)
4. call for right _____ (Rom. 12:10)
5. exhortation of _____ (Phil. 2:3)

The Bible doesn't _____ the state of man and the heart of self (Isa. 53:6; 64:6; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-12; Eph. 2:3,5).

③ _____.

The great Doctor is on call and as He opens His doors, all who arrive are sick. But only those who see themselves as unrighteous (_____) will enter in. Those who think themselves to be self-righteous (_____) will not make an appointment.

Luke 23 identifies some observers at the foot of the cross. Each group has the same response: “Save yourself” (23:35,37,39). It is one of the greatest _____ in history!

How appalling that the One who only ever thought about others is rejected by these others He came to save.

CONCLUSION

He chose not to save Himself in order that He could save others. His example, His life, demonstrates to us what we also must be about. As men of God we are not here to _____ ourselves, but to _____ our lives. These are the marching orders (1 John 3:16).

The Savior inserted Easter on the calendar as He thought less of Himself and more of man by exiting from on high and entering from on low, ultimately becoming sin's payment for us though He knew no sin. What amazing grace!