

# TO FIX A RIGHTFUL VALUE

JOHN 5:22, 23

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: To honor Jesus is to place a rightful value on who He is. (See Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p.1383. In these Scriptures Jesus challenges the “Pharisee” who lives inside all of us. But we see that if we honor Jesus, we will live by His grace and the “Pharisee in us” will cease to have power over us.

***DON'T EMBRACE THE PHARISEES' SHAME-BASED THEOLOGY.*** The rule-keeping attitude of the Pharisees was so intense that they missed God's mercy, God's forgiveness, and His grace. Their sanctimonious behavior revealed that their goal was to always look good to others. With “shame on you” as their weapon, you can never earn the respect of the self-righteous who believe that in God's eyes they are better than you. (**John 5:22, 23, John 5:39, 40, fn 5:39 40, Matthew 7:1-5, fn 7:1-5, Philippians 2:3-11, fn 2:3**) *How does a shame-based theology miss Christ?*

***HONOR JESUS BY EMBRACING HIM AS MY SAVIOUR.*** I honor Him by looking forward to standing before Him on Judgment Day. Then I will give accountability of the life that He has given to me, but I will be pronounced righteous in God's eyes and fit for heaven because of His life in me. In my life on earth, I will honor Him by placing a high value on spending time with Him and thus becoming more like Him as He changes me. My heart's desire will be for Jesus, not myself, to look good to others. (**John 5:22, 23, fn 5:19-23, John 17:10, fn 17:10, II Corinthians 5:6-10, fn 5:6-8, fn 5:9, 10, II Corinthians 5:13-15, fn 5:13-15**) *In what part of your life do you need to honor Jesus more?*

***HONOR JESUS BY LIVING BY HIS GRACE.*** Jesus gave His life for me and to me to receive His abundance of grace and reign with Him in this life and eternally. Meagerly receiving His grace gives me just a glimpse of Jesus, but graciously receiving and embracing grace abundantly carries me deep into the joy of His presence and transforms me into the likeness of Christ. (**John 5:22, 23, Romans 5:15-17, 20, fn 5:20, II Timothy 2:1, fn 2:1, II Corinthians 3:18, fn 3:18**) *How could you honor Jesus daily by receiving and living in His abundant grace (His power)?*

*Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?*