

Worth

In our backyard we have a beautiful waterfall and pond. In that pond we have a large number of Koi fish. Some are as big as a foot long, and many, many small ones are of various sizes. We also have a visitor. A Blue Heron comes in the winter and likes to feed on the small fish. So last fall, when we were cleaning and freshening up the pond, we decided to add some “fish caves” that the pond expert had recommended for this problem. We went to the local pond place and looked at the “fish caves” they had for sale.

Now wait just a minute! I quickly noticed that the “fish caves” they had, at a handsome price, were really nothing more than common terra cotta flue liners. We took one large one that the pond store had. And later, a quick check on-line found a local masonry manufacturer that made flue liners and we went there and picked up several more at a much-reduced price!

The fish love these hideaways. The Blue Heron misses lunch at Deb’s pond. But I couldn’t get done thinking about how the common everyday flue liner became much more valuable when labeled as a “fish cave.”

And what about you? And what about me? The world may look at us as broken, or damaged, or not very valuable. You may see yourself that way. But when we have placed our lives under the shed blood of Christ, when our sins have been washed clean, and when the Holy Spirit has filled our lives with His presence, well, we become very valuable!

You are a child of the King! You are chosen and called for the Kingdom of Christ! You are gifted for ministry! You are very valuable! As one of God’s precious children you are loved and cared for deeply. Never doubt it or forget it!

Remember Jesus’ words about the sparrows?

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:29-31 NIV

And remember Paul’s words about what happens when we receive Christ.

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 NIV

The plain old clay flue liner now becomes strong, important, valuable protector of the fish! And the old clay sinner now becomes a valuable, gifted, cherished child of the Kingdom. Dear friends, never doubt your worth in Christ!

Larry M. Dentler, CBC Executive Board

Weekly prayer request

One Sunday before Christmas, our pastor was preaching about that glorious day of the dedication of Solomon's Temple when the fire fell and the priests could not stand to minister to the people. I was overwhelmed with desire for us to experience this Glory of the Lord in our church! When he began to quote in that chapter, 2 Chronicles, 7:14, my heart leapt within me. Our Father is addressing His people...His Israel and now His Church. Oh Church, if we will humble ourselves and pray, and seek His face and turn from our wicked ways, then He will hear from Heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land... the church! This is the way for us to be affective for Him in these days and to allow His Glory to fill the church so that the world will run to Him!

Please pray for the following churches and pastors.

Ewing Congregation in Ewing, VA and Pastor Frank Turner

Fairview Congregation in Oakland, MD and Pastor Samuel Moon

CBC Prayer Committee