



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

FEBRUARY 2024

The Stanley Cup was first awarded in the 1892-93 hockey season and is the oldest trophy that can be won by professional athletes in North America. It is often considered to be the most prestigious trophy in sports, since there is only one, and the winning team only gets to keep it for the year following their championship, and it then goes to the next championship team, so it is easy to see the value of this esteemed trophy.

Recently, another Stanley cup has been in the news. This is the highly sought after Stanley tumbler that, while being popular the last couple of years, has exploded onto the news as people are standing in lines—and sometimes stampeding—at Starbucks and Targets to buy them. There are stories of people jumping counters to steal them, people fighting over them, and people paying exorbitantly high prices on Ebay for them. Indeed, owning one is not always enough. Many people simply must have multiple cups in various designs and colors to keep up with the trend.

This should not come as a surprise to any of us. People tend to put excess value on things all the time. And while that is not always a bad thing, it can cloud our judgement when it comes to things of true value. We all value things, but the Bible reminds us in Psalm 19:9-10 that “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever: The judgements of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”

Not only is the Word of God more precious than gold, but our Savior is also even more so. 1 Peter 2:4 says of Jesus, “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious.”

The priceless gift of Christ is indeed more precious than silver or gold. And we have been given that gift freely. While the world can go crazy over Stanley cups, or whatever latest thing becomes fashionable, we know what is best for us. We can even enjoy some of those things that the world dangles before us, as long as we put Christ first. And unlike those people who seek to profit on on-line marketing sites when they score one of these so-called precious items, our duty is to take the love of Christ and offer it freely to everyone we can, so that they too have the opportunity to gain what is more precious than silver and gold.

Always and All Ways in Christ,

Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate