

Giving Our Earthly Service Glorifying Our Eternal Savior



Our Service & Our Savior

Since the beginning of this year, I have been meditating on our BIMI theme and what it means to me as a Christian. The most obvious truth is that my earthly service has eternal significance. However, I would like to use this editorial to highlight a less obvious part of our theme. There is a small word used twice in the theme that can easily be overlooked. That word is the word *our*, which is connected to *earthly service* and *eternal Savior*. The word *our* is POSSESSIVE and it is PLURAL. The

possessive and plural aspects of the word *our* bring out some wonderful truths concerning our service and our Savior.

First, I would like to discuss how the word *our* relates to earthly service. The POSSESSIVE aspect of earthly service reminds us that it is ours to give—or not to give. That means we have a choice to make every day as to whether or not we will give our bodies, our energy, our talents, and our strength to serve the Lord. It is amazing to think that every day we have the opportunity to give *our* bodies, energy, talents, and strength to serve *our* eternal Savior. The interesting twist in all of this is that although they are ours to give, they were not ours until God gave them to us. We are stewards.



David H. Snyder
President/General Director

The PLURAL aspect of our earthly service brings to mind sending churches, supporting churches, mission agencies, and, of course, missionaries all working together. As each of us is giving our earthly service individually, the Great Commission is being accomplished corporately. None of us live on an island unto ourselves. Oh, how important it is to think of others who are giving their earthly service as we are giving our earthly service, allowing us to glorify our eternal Savior together. We are members of the same team—The Great Commission Team.

Second, I would like to discuss how the word *our* relates to the eternal Savior, Jesus Christ. The POSSESSIVE aspect of our eternal Savior is very personal because it is possessive. Knowing Christ as my Savior allows me to say that He is *my* Savior. Jesus knows me and I am His. He chose me from the foundation of the world, bought me with His blood, forgave me all my sin, and reconciled me to the heavenly Father. Jesus is interceding for me at the Father's right hand, abiding with me on earth, and preparing a place for me in heaven. My Savior knows my name, the number of hairs on my head, and every one of my needs. The Lord is doing a work in me to conform me to His image, and He is doing a work through me to accomplish His will during my time on earth. Jesus Christ is my best friend—a friend Who is seeking an ever-deepening relationship. Therefore, it is an amazing privilege to work side by side with my personal Savior while I am here on earth, knowing that I will be in His presence for all eternity in heaven.

Finally, the PLURAL aspect to *our* eternal Savior emphasizes that He is not just my Savior, but He is the Savior of anyone who calls upon Him for salvation. This means that those of us who are saved have many spiritual brothers and sisters. It also means that as the eternal Savior, Christ desires all mankind to receive Him personally so they can abide with Him eternally. Jesus is *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9). This truth reminds us of our responsibility to go *into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature* (Mark 16:15). It is indeed *our* earthly service to tell others about *our* eternal Savior.

The two *ours* of BIMI's annual theme may be small words but they are big reminders of the privilege we have to give *our* earthly service to *our* eternal Savior. As we give Him our service on earth, we honor Him in heaven. By proclaiming His desire for *all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth* (1 Timothy 2:4), we give others the opportunity to be saved. This enables them to personally know our eternal Savior and give Him their earthly service. [W](#)