

# **“How Do You Define ‘Greatness’?”**

## **Results of a 100-year nationwide survey completed in 2002**

### **1900 - 1920**

- ▶ “Which mortal person in all the history of mankind is the greatest?”  
*Bible characters, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln*
- ▶ “How would you define ‘greatness’?”  
*Being true to ideals in adversity; not afraid of failure; faith that “right” will prevail, God’s hand is guiding things*

### **1920 - 1940**

- ▶ “Which mortal person in all the history of mankind is the greatest?”  
*Bible heroes: David, Elijah, Gideon, Joshua, Elisha, Moses, Abraham, Paul, Peter*
- ▶ “How would you define ‘greatness’?”  
*Overcoming the adversities of daily life through faith in God*

### **1940 - 1960**

- ▶ “Which mortal person in all the history of mankind is the greatest?”  
*Leaders of World War II: Presidents, Generals, Medal of Honor recipients*
- ▶ “How would you define ‘greatness’?”  
*Beginning to shift from a display of strong personal values to “success” as the standard*

### **1960 - 1980**

- ▶ “Which mortal person in all the history of mankind is the greatest?”  
*Entertainers: Elvis and the Beatles*  
*Sports stars: Namath, Palmer, Chamberlain, Spitz*  
*Political leaders*
- ▶ “How would you define ‘greatness’?”  
*“Professional results,” personal talents, accumulated wealth*

### **1980 - 2000**

- ▶ “Which mortal person in all the history of mankind is the greatest?”  
*Entertainers: actors and singers*  
*Sports stars*  
*Political leaders*
- ▶ “How would you define ‘greatness’?”  
*Popularity and fame, power and position, wealth and materialism*

# **“How Should We Define ‘Greatness’?”**

**Scripture Reading:** *Proverbs 14:26-35*

## **I. Survey Results (on the back)**

## **II. Jesus’ Definition of “Greatness”**

- A. Those who are in the kingdom of heaven (*Matthew 11:1-11*)
  
- B. Those who are in the kingdom of heaven are “great” because:
  - 1. A greater covenant (*Hebrews 8:1-6*)
  - 2. Better promises (*2 Peter 1:2-4*)
  - 3. A better High Priest (*Hebrews 7:23-28; 1 John 4:1-4; Philippians 4:13*)
  - 4. A higher calling – taking on the likeness of Christ and allowing the world to see Christ in me (*1 Peter 2:21-25*)
  
- C. The poor widow as an example (*Luke 21:1-4*)
  
- D. The saving of a country is an amazing feat, but the saving of a soul is even greater (*Matthew 4:8-9; Luke 19:10; 15:7,10*)
  - 1. The accumulation of great treasures is commendable among men, but the laying up of treasure in heaven far exceeds that (*Matthew 6:19-21*)
  - 2. Having my name listed in “Who’s Who” is a mark of great achievement, but having my name in the “Book of Life” is far greater (*Revelation 20:11-12*)
  
- E. To receive “greatness,” I must give all that I have (*Luke 14:27*).
  
- F. Jesus tells us exactly how to be the greatest – be a servant!