



These Things Are Precious - 2

1 Peter 2:4-5 -- And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Introduction

1. Much of what God considers of “value” is what improves the spiritual quality of life or brings life in its eternal form. Things that are precious to God usually have to do with His creation and especially the souls of men. Here are some of the things that God deems valuable since they came at the cost of many lives, especially that of His Son.
2. Is it not, therefore, worthwhile to explore what are the things that give meaning to life? And not only to discover them, but to work toward preserving them, if for no other reason than for our own sanity and for many other reasons as well?
3. In this lesson we continue to look at the precious things life and God have to offer, hopefully to bring them into focus and strive to preserve them.

D. Our Faith is Precious

1. Our Christian faith is precious because there is no other like it. Other false faiths are more than likely destructive.
2. There is only one true system of faith. Only one true law of faith.
3. There is only one faith that can bring a person fruitful and eternal life.
4. Even faiths that seem benign often harbor destructive doctrines, if none other than the violation of “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me!”

2 Peter 2:1 -- But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

Ephesians 4:4-5 -- There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Galatians 1:22-23 -- And I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; but only, they kept hearing, “He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy.”

1 Corinthians 15:2 -- By which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

E. Precious Trials of Faith

1. It is because of the preciousness of faith that trials come. On the one hand, the world stands in the path of truth to bar its progress. Where lives would be bettered from Christian love and souls would be saved through the power of God’s gospel, incredibly many in the world find this outrageous.
2. On the other, many trials are sent by God to help and make our faith better and stronger, allowing us to comprehend how very special and precious it is.
3. The trials of our faith make us mature and complete, appreciative of what God has helped us to become, and hopeful of the things that God has promised.

1 Peter 1:7 -- That the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

James 1:3 -- Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance, and let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be complete and lacking in nothing.

Hebrews 11:17 -- By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son.

James 1:12 -- Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

F. Precious Possessions Properly Used & Blessings

1. God truly does bless His children and wants them to have the best of whatever, just like any other father would with his children.
2. But God, being the wisest of fathers, knows that we must learn to not covet our possessions, but to learn that their true worth is in their use in helping others.
3. This helps us not only increase our blessings and the ability to make friends, but to lay up treasures in heaven.

Proverbs 12:27 -- A slothful man does not roast his prey, but the precious possession of a man is diligence.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 -- And make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you.

Malachi 3:10 -- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 -- Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 -- Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Acts 20:35 -- In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Luke 6:38 -- Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

G. Precious Death

1. To the fatalist, the atheist and the agnostic, death is the awful void of the unknown or the abysmal end of all things.
2. To the Christian, though, death is not to be feared. First we realize that all things die, but more, it is the beginning of greater things.
3. In truth, death is an old experience to the Christian. He has first known his soul to die, and then being awakened to its awful state, learns that he has come to appreciate more the life that God offers in its resurrection.
4. He thus knows the death that he has shared with his Lord in the act of baptism that has been instrumental in coming in contact with Christ's blood and the experience of washing away his sins.
5. He knows of the death of the Old Law of sin in his members and the birth of the law of the Spirit of light.
6. Therefore, the Christian sees the beauty, purpose and promise in the transition of death into life, especially into life eternal, and should willingly embrace the prospect. As Paul points out, a seed must die in order for greater things to grow.

Revelation 2:10 -- Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Genesis 2:16-17 -- And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

Psalms 116:15 -- Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.

Revelation 14:13 -- And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

Galatians 3:27 -- For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.