

## Precious Things

I Peter 1:6-9

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** The word “precious” occurs 77 times on the pages of God’s book (OT, 61; NT, 16).

A. Old Testament: 4022: *meqed* (meh'-ghed); ...probably meaning to be eminent; properly, a distinguished thing; hence something valuable, as a product or fruit:

**Gen. 24:53**: “Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.”; **Psa. 22:20**: “My precious life...”

B. New Testament: 5093: *timios* valuable, i.e. (objectively) costly, or (subjectively) honored, esteemed, or (figuratively) beloved:

**Mk. 14:3**: “ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.” Cf. **I Pet. 1:7**: “your faith...much more precious than...gold... **19**: ...precious blood of Christ...”

2. \*\* It suggests what is costly and of great value. Every day we talk about “precious” things:

- A. “We have precious little time.”
- B. “My child (pet) is precious.”
- C. “I have precious memories of my childhood.”
- D. “Gold is more precious than silver.”

3. **3** The Bible talks about many precious things; let’s look at a few of them.

### II. DISCUSSION:

I. **4** The Word of the Lord:

A. I Samuel 3:1 records, “...And the word of the Lord was precious in those days...” (KJV)

- (1) The NKJV translates the word “rare” instead of *precious*.
- (2) Things that are rare are often considered precious (precious gems are rare).
- (3) The meaning is this: God had not spoken for some time; thus, His word was precious (i.e., rare) in those days.

B. God’s Word remains precious even though we have “all truth” (Jn. 16:13) and it has been “once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

C. \*\* It’s precious because of all it does:

- ☛ Builds up: (**Acts 20:32**: “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”; contrast w/human philosophies),
- ☛ Produces faith: (**Rom. 10:17**: “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”; No direct operation of the Holy Spirit!),
- ☛ Reconciles: (**2 Cor. 5:19**: “that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”; You want to be right with God? Only one way!),

- ☛ Sanctifies and cleanses: (**Eph. 5:26**: “that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,”; Jn. 3:5),
- ☛ Begets: (**Jas. 1:18**: “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”; KJV),
- ☛ Saves: (**Jas. 1:21**: “...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”; cf. Lk. 8:11-15),
- ☛ Brings about growth: (**1 Pet. 2:2**: “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”; Why don’t people grow?! They don’t study God’s Word!).

D. \*\* Is God’s Word precious to you? What Bible book are personally studying?

## 2. **5** Death:

- A. It’s difficult to think of death as being precious, yet the Psalmist said, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints” (Psa. 116:15).
- B. Not all death is precious (e.g., rich man in Lk. 16:19-31; Stephen Hawking).
- C. The only death described as precious in the Bible is “the death of His saints.”
- D. To be a saint is to be sanctified (same word as *holy*) as Paul penned, “...to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...” (1 Cor 1:2).

**1 Pet. 2:9**: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

E. \*\* In a nutshell, for my death to be “precious”; two things must be true:

- (1) I must be “in Christ” (Eph. 1); we are “...baptized into Christ...” (Gal. 3:27).
- (2) I must be “perfecting holiness”: **2 Cor. 6:16-7:1**: “For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ 17 Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’ 18 ‘I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.’ I Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

F. Will your death be “Precious...in the sight of the Lord...”? Are you “perfecting holiness” in your life?

## 3. **6** Seed:

A. Consider the power in a seed:

**1 Cor. 15:37-38**: “And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain — perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.”

- (1) **7** Giant sequoia trees are the world’s largest tree; largest living thing by volume, average height 165-280 ft (record: 311 ft), average diameter 20-26 ft (record: 69 ft)(oldest: >3,500 years old!).

- (2) \*\* Sequoia trees have tiny seeds: 0.16-0.20 inches long, 0.04 broad, 0.04 wide.
- (3) There are~ 81,000 sequoia seeds per pound! ~1,600 corn kernels per pound.
- (4) Think of the power contained in that tiny seed!

B. 8 In the parable of the sower, "...The seed is the word of God" (Lk. 8:11).

- (1) There is no more precious or powerful seed than the word of God.
- (2) It is able to produce a Christian, a child of God! **1 Pet. 1:23:** "having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,"

**Rom. 1:16-17:** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'"

**Job 23:12:** "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."; cf. **Psa. 119;** e.g., v. 127: "Therefore I love your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold!"

C. \*\* Are you allowing God's precious seed to work its power in your life?

**Phil. 3:17-21:** "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."

#### 4. 9 Unity:

A. The Psalmist speaks of unity: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head..." **Psa. 133:1-2).**

- (1) Unity is good, pleasant, and precious!
- (2) There is nothing good, pleasant, or precious about division!

**Rom. 16:17-18:** "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."

**Gal. 5:19-21:** "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

B. \*\* Not only did the Psalmist sing of unity, but also...

- (1) Jesus prayed for it: **Jn. 17:20-21**: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”
- (2) The apostles pleaded for it: **1 Cor. 1:10**: “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
- C. \*\* What are you doing to contribute to unity here at Westside? **Eph. 4:1-3**:  
“...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

5. **10** God's Thoughts:

- A. The Psalmist exclaimed, “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!” (Psa. 139:17)
- B. God's thoughts are on a far higher plane than ours: **Isa. 55:8-9**: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts...saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are...my thoughts than your thoughts”
- C. I'm confident all men, even faithful Christians (at times), take God for granted and fail to appreciate His “excellent greatness” (Psa. 150:2).  
**Psa. 147:4-5**: “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.”
- D. Men scoff at God, marginalize God, try to eliminate God (Hawking, science).
  - (1) God is eternal!  
**Psa. 90:2**: “Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”
  - (2) God rules the Universe!  
**2 Chr. 20:6**: [Jehoshaphat] “...said: ‘O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?’”  
**Psa. 2:8-9**: “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.”
- E. Despite the immensity of God's power; what are His thoughts about you and me?  
**Psa. 144:3-4**: “O Lord, what is man that you care for him, the son of man that you think of him? 4 Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow.” (NIV)
  - (1) God thinks about Y-O-U! **Gen. 1:26-27**  
**2 Pet. 1:3-4**: “...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

(2) God truly cares about Y-O-U! Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16; Heb. 13:5; Rom. 8:32

**Matt. 11:28-30:** “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

F. We need to learn and apply the lesson Job learned:

**Job 38:1-4a:** “Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: 2 ‘Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ 4 ‘Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.’”

**Job 40:1-2:** “Moreover the Lord answered Job, and said: 2 ‘Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it.’”

**Job 42:1-6:** “Then Job answered the Lord and said: 2 ‘I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. 3 You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ 5 ‘I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.’”

G. The next time we feel like questioning God because of what life throws at us; let’s remember Job, remember Isaiah 55:8-9.

## 6. **II** Wisdom:

A. The wise man said this of wisdom, “She is more **precious** than rubies, and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her” (Prov. 3:15).

B. How does one obtain wisdom? Go to the “Wisdom Store”? Yes! God’s Word!

**Prov. 9:10:** “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”

C. The world rejects the “fear of the Lord”; and think they are so wise for doing so:

“A theist can't empirically prove that God exists but he believes in God because no one can allegedly disprove God's existence. By his logic, you must believe in anything you can't disprove. That means all things are real until disproved—including the tooth fairy, the Loch Ness Monster, Santa Claus, the Flying Spaghetti Monster, etc.” — G. M. Jackson, *How to Prove God Does Not Exist*

“Presumably what happened to Jesus was what happens to all of us when we die. We decompose. Accounts of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension are about as well-documented as Jack and the Beanstalk. Richard Dawkins

“[God is] a vindictive bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser, a misogynistic, homophobic racist, an infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.” Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*)

D. In reality, by rejecting God and His wisdom they become “fools”:

**Psa. 14:1:** “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt...”

**Rom. 1:21, 23:** "...although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools..."

E. Our secular society is doing everything possible to deny Proverbs 9:10:

"Faith is one of the world's great evils, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate." Richard Dawkins

(1) Evolution: Gen. 1:1

- (a) If you don't believe in evolution, society (esp. academia) will do everything in its power to shame you to the point you abandon God.
- (b) Non-believers in evolution in academia are denied freedom of speech and routinely denied tenure.
- (c) Side note: It is ironic evolutionists seek to persuade people to not believe in God when they don't believe in free will! Lesson for another time.

"It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet someone who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)." Richard Dawkins

"Naturalistic evolution has clear consequences that Charles Darwin understood perfectly. 1) No gods worth having exist; 2) no life after death exists; 3) no ultimate foundation for ethics exist; 4) no ultimate meaning in life exists; and 5) human free will is nonexistent." —William Provine (1998), *"Evolution: Free Will and Punishment and Meaning of Life"*

(2) Humanism: man is his own standard of morality/ethics; situation ethics (Logical consequence if evolution true!).

"DNA neither cares nor knows. DNA just is. And we dance to its music."  
Richard Dawkins (*River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*)

**Prov. 12:15:** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,"

**I Cor. 1:18-31**

- (a) These human philosophies lead to gross immorality, rampant hedonism.
- (b) We see this in today's society: Homosexuality; fornication, drugs, abortion, euthanasia, etc.

"Those who wish to base their morality literally on the Bible have either not read it or not understood it." Richard Dawkins

"With respect to those meanings of 'human' that are relevant to the morality of abortion, any fetus is less human than an adult pig." Richard Dawkins

F. Our secular society does everything possible not only to marginalize/deny God; but also, to destroy Christianity.

- (1) If you believe in creation you are ridiculed; placed on the same intellectual plane as "flat-earthers." (recall G. M. Jackson's and Dawkin's quotes above)
- (2) If you are a Christian you are accused of being racist, misogynistic, homophobic, etc. (recall Dawkin's quote above)

G. But when we reject God; when we fail to hold precious that *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”* (Prov. 9:10).

(1) Man becomes his own standard of behavior, morality, ethics, etc. and anything goes! cf. Jud. 21:25

(2) The precious unborn don't even have the value of an adult pig!

**Rom. 1:24:** *“Therefore God also gave them up... 26 For this reason God gave them up... 28 they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind...”*

H. Do you hold true wisdom precious?

**Prov. 1:7:** *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

**Prov 24:7:** *“Wisdom is too lofty for a fool...”*

7. **12** A good name:

A. The Preacher said, *“A good name is better than precious ointment...”* (Eccl. 7:1).

B. Some people scoff at the idea of a “good name” being important.

(1) They boldly say things like, *“It’s nobody’s business what I do, what I say, etc.”*

(2) Or, *“Who cares what people think of me.”*

C. To some degree I agree with those sentiments, because you can have impeccable character and some will still criticize you and *“drag your name through the dirt.”*

(1) Jesus warned us this would happen:

**Matt. 10:25:** *“It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?”*

(2) It certainly happened to the apostle Paul

**Act 24:5:** *“For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.”*

(3) And, if we strive to conform our lives to Christ it will happen to us:

**Matt. 10:26:** *“Fear them not therefore...”*

(4) To be given a “bad name” by the world for following Jesus is a badge of honor!

**Matt. 5:11-12:** *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”*

D. But I totally reject the notion that we should not care about having a “good name,” especially if we claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

E. **\*\*** If you don't think having a “good name” matters; what comes to your mind when you hear these names mentioned:



- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) Adolph Hitler            | (4) Jezebel                |
| (2) Ted Bundy/Charles Manson | (5) Judas Iscariot         |
| (3) Benedict Arnold          | (6) Jim Jones/David Koresh |

F. None of these people have “good names”!

- (1) How many parents would name their new baby girl Jezebel? Or, baby boy Adolph?
- (2) All of these names are in the “Infamy Hall of Shame”!

G. Why? Our name is more than something to identify/differentiate us from others:

- (1) Our name also represents our character (Col. 3:17).
- (2) Our name says something about who we are, what we do, who we follow.
- (3) That is one reason parents worry about their children’s conduct because it reflects upon their “name” (i.e., the parent’s name).
- (4) It reflects on the parent’s character; their ability to influence their children for good.

H. **13** The same is true about our name when it comes to being a Christian.

- (1) We wear the name “*Christian*” (Acts 11:26).
- (2) That means what we do, what we say, where we go, etc. matters!
- (3) Because, all our behavior/words/attitudes ultimately reflect on Christ; we wear His name!
- (4) One of the infidel’s favorite tools to criticize, minimize, denigrate Christ is the bad behavior (and hence “bad name”) many of His followers have cultivated for themselves (Crusades, Spanish Inquisition, Jim Jones, David Koresh, etc.).

**2 Pet. 2:2:** “*And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*”

I. It is so wrong and so sad for us not to be concerned about having a “good name”:

**1 Pet. 1:13-16:** “*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*”

J. Sadly, many will trade a good name for things of much lesser worth (Heb. 12:16).

- (1) Our “name,” whether “good” or “bad” doesn’t just reflect on us.
- (2) It reflects on everyone connected to us: parents, grandparents, siblings, community.

**Titus 1:12:** “*One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, ‘The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.’*”

**Jn. 1:46:** “*And Nathanael said unto him, ‘Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?’*”

K. What kind of name are you cultivating for yourself? If your name comes up in conversation do people give an “eye roll,” or do they give a nod of approval?

**Prov. 22:1:** “*A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches...*”



**Matt. 5:14-16:** “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. *15* Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. *16* Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

8. **14** Trial of our faith:

- A. Peter tell us this great truth: **1 Pet. 1:6-7:** “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: *7* That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”
- B. Gold is the most common precious metal:
- (1) It has many properties that make it valuable.
    - (a) Relatively rare (high value, coins, basis of currency),
    - (b) Beauty (color): used for jewelry for centuries,
    - (c) High malleability (easily hammered into thin sheets; e.g., Rutherford’s gold foil experiments led to discovery of the atom, w/nucleus and electrons),
    - (d) High ductility (easily drawn into wires, threads),
    - (e) High corrosion resistance (doesn’t rust)
    - (f) High conductive (electrical connections)
    - (g) Medicinal value (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis)
  - (2) Most often gold is found in nature, not as pure gold, but as an ore (a metal-bearing rock).
    - (a) Typical gold ore contains only 1-5 ppm pure gold.
    - (b) Therefore, the gold ore must be refined to release the pure gold (recall gold mine & refinery in Canada).
    - (c) In biblical times gold ore was refined using heat to separate the various substances in the gold ore (melting point of ~1950 °F).
- C. Our faith is “golden,” it is valuable and precious:
- Rom. 3:22:** “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:”
- Eph. 2:8:** “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
- Gal. 3:26:** “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
- (1) But just like gold, our faith must be refined to make it pure, strong, etc.
  - (2) Paul praised Timothy for his “*unfeigned faith*” (2 Tim. 1:5; sincere, genuine; derived from his grandmother, Lois and his mother, Eunice).
- D. **15** 1 Peter 1:6-7 was written when the faith of Christians was being put to the test.
- (1) They were undergoing “*manifold temptations*.”
  - (2) They were suffering “*for righteousness sake*” (1 Pet. 3:14).
  - (3) They were suffering “*fiery trials*” (1 Pet. 4:12).

E. In such times of trial we find out just how genuine and strong our faith is.

- (1) When trials and temptations come Peter says we should “greatly rejoice.” (1:6).
- (2) Why? **1 Pet. 4:13:** “...rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”
- (3) Trials give us a “golden” opportunity to develop our patience:

**Jas. 1:2-4:** “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

**Rom. 5:1-5:** “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed...”

F. So, the next time you face trials, temptations, persecutions, etc. REJOICE!

- (1) The Lord is giving you a golden opportunity for your faith to be proven genuine.
- (2) He's giving you a golden opportunity to grow your faith.
- (3) He's giving you a golden opportunity to show you have the right perspective:

**2 Cor. 4:16-5:1:** “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

G. In the end it will pay off! **1 Pet. 1:9:** “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

H. How precious is your faith to Y-O-U! **2 Pet. 1:3-11** (virtue—knowledge—self-control—perseverance—godliness—brotherly kindness—love)

## 9. **16** The Blood of Christ:

- A. Peter teaches us about the blood of Christ: **1 Pet. 1:18-19:** “...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...But with the precious blood of Christ...”
- B. The crucifixion scene reveals, “...one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water” (Jn. 19:34).
- C. Christ's blood was:
  - (1) Innocent blood (Matt. 27:4),
  - (2) Blood of the New Testament (Mk. 14:24),
  - (3) His own blood (Rev. 1:5): **Heb. 2:14-16:** “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.”

D. \*\* We often sing a song *There Is Power in the Blood* (Lewis E. Jones, 1899):

Would you be free from the burden of sin?  
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;  
Would you o'er evil a victory win?  
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

*Refrain:*

There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r  
In the blood of the Lamb;  
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r  
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

\*\*Would you be free from your passion and pride?

There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;  
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide;  
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?  
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;  
Sin-stains are lost in its life-giving flow;  
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Would you do service for Jesus your King?  
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;  
Would you live daily His praises to sing?  
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

E. 17 Do you ever stop to consider all that His blood does?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Purchased the church (Acts 20:28), | (6) Brings peace (Col. 1:20),                               |
| (2) Remits sins (Matt. 28:28),         | (7) Sanctifies (Heb. 13:12),                                |
| (3) Justifies (Rom. 5:9),              | (8) Cleanses (1 Jn. 1:7),                                   |
| (4) Redeems (Eph. 1:7),                | (9) Washes (Rev. 1:5).                                      |
| (5) Makes nigh (Eph. 2:13),            | (10) Gives us "boldness to enter the holiest" (Heb. 10:19). |

F. \*\* Surely His blood is indeed precious! Are you living your life worthy of that blood?

- (1) We'll never be worthy of His blood in an absolute sense.
- (2) But I mean that in a relative sense (Phil. 1:27).

**Heb. 10:29:** *"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"*

10. 18 Christ:

A. It was prophesied, "...Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation..." (Isa. 28:16).

B. Peter quoted this and applied it to Christ: **1 Pet. 2:4-7:** *"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner*

stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.' 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

- C. Christ is not precious to everyone.
- D. He is precious to those who believe, and to believe is to obey as this text joins belief with obedience.
  - (1) The Bible equates belief with obedience: **Heb. 3:18-19**: "And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey. 19 So we see that they did not enter in because of unbelief."
  - (2) Are you living a lie? **1 Jn. 2:3-5**: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, 'I know him,' and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."
- E. \*\* Is Christ precious to you? **Phil. 1:21**: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
  - (1) What do you put in the blank?  
"For to me to live is \_\_\_\_\_, and to die is \_\_\_\_\_."
  - (2) If we put anything in the first blank besides "Christ"; our death will not be "gain."
  - (3) Think about it! What do you put in the first blank?!

## 11. **19** Faith:

- A. Peter began his second epistle with these words: "...to them that have obtained like precious faith..." (2 Pet. 1:1).
- B. In the New Testament "faith" is used in several senses:
  - (1) **Objective**: that which produces saving faith (i.e., the gospel):
    - Jude 3**: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."
    - Act 6:7**: "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."
    - Act 14:22**: "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."
    - Act 16:5**: "And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."
    - Rom. 1:5**: "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:" cf. Rom. 16:26
    - Rom. 10:8**: "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;"
  - (2) **Subjective**: our "personal" faith:
    - Rom. 3:22**: "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:"

**Rom. 4:13:** “For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of **faith**.”

**Rom. 5:1:** “Therefore being justified by **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**I Cor 2:5:** “That your **faith** should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

**I Cor. 15:14:** “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your **faith** is also vain.”

**Gal. 3:11:** “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, ‘The just shall live by **faith**.’”

**Gal. 3:26:** “For ye are all the children of God by **faith** in Christ Jesus.”

**Jas. 2:26:** “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith** without works is dead also.”

**Heb. 11:6:** “But without **faith** it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

C. It is this latter aspect of “**faith**” Peter addresses in I Peter 1:1; our “personal” faith.

(1) Have you thought about the preciousness of your faith?

(2) Our faith is precious because God said so!

(a) **Source:** Rom. 10:17; **I Cor. 2:4-5:** “And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

(b) **Effect:**

✓ Justifies: **Rom. 5:1:** “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

✓ Saves: **Eph. 2:8:** “For by grace are ye saved through faith...”

D. Your faith is your most precious possession; what is the state of your faith? Are you “giving all diligence” to strengthen your faith?

## 12. **20** God's promises:

A. Peter speaks of God's promises:

**2 Pet. 1:3-4:** “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

B. God is a promise-making, promise-keeping God!

**Titus 1:2:** “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, **promised** before the world began,”

C. Can there be anything more precious to you than the “hope of eternal life”?

**Rom. 8:24:** “For we are saved by hope...”

**Rom. 12:12:** “Rejoicing in hope...”

**Rom. 15:13:** “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope...”

**Col. 1:5:** “For the hope which is laid up in heaven...**27** [it is] the hope of glory...”

D. Our hope has the firmest foundation imaginable:

**Heb. 6:19-20:** “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; **20** Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

E. Such a “hope” is precious indeed! Do you have such a hope?

### III. CONCLUSION: **21**

I. This lesson has considered twelve precious things:

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| ☛ The Word of the Lord | ☛ A good name     |
| ☛ Death                | ☛ Trial of faith  |
| ☛ Seed                 | ☛ Blood of Christ |
| ☛ Unity                | ☛ Christ          |
| ☛ God's thoughts       | ☛ Faith           |
| ☛ Wisdom               | ☛ God's promises  |

2. Do you hold these things precious?

3. How about you? **Psa. 116:15:** “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”

Adapted from an article (*These Are Precious*) by John Isaac Edwards,  
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