

Sermon Outlines

The Precious Things Of God and From God

Reading:

This depends on which aspect of the “precious things” the speaker wants to concentrate on. All the references for this message are given below.

Introduction

- 1) It is always interesting that which God views as waste and valuable in contrast with man’s ideas.
 - a) The woman came with an alabaster box of precious ointment to anoint the Lord and the retort of the disciples was: “Why was this waste of the ointment made?” (Mk. 14:4). However, the Lord did not view it as waste, but after commending her said: “she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying” (Mk. 14:8). Again, when the Lord fed the 5000, the disciples were instructed to pick up the fragments, “that nothing be lost” (Jn. 6:12). To have let them lie there would have been a waste.
 - b) When it comes to what is true treasure, the Lord taught not to lay up treasure on earth, but in heaven (Matt. 6:19-20).
 - i) It is interesting to see how that which we view as a treasure changes through the years. When we were little children a doll or a train set were our treasured possessions. I recall having an all chrome racing bicycle, that was a treasure, then it became a car then my family.
 - ii) As we sit here tonight, at this moment, what is it in life we hold as a treasure?
 - iii) The Lord would have us think beyond the present and live treasuring the things which will bring eternal rewards.
- 2) The word precious occurs in 79 verses, and among them God says the following are precious:
 - a) The word of the LORD (1 Sam. 3:1)
 - b) Christ is the “precious corner stone” (Isa. 28:16)
 - c) The Blood of the Lord is precious (1 Pet. 1:19)
 - d) Precious thoughts (Psa. 139:17)
 - e) Precious promises (2 Pet. 1:4)
 - f) “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.” (Psa. 116:15)
- 3) The division of these expressions:
 - a) Those which relate to the Lord:
 - i) Christ is the “precious corner stone” (Isa. 28:16). His position as the exalted by God, despite the humiliations and rejections of men. (Matt. 21:42)
 - ii) The Blood of the Lord is precious. (1 Pet. 1:18)
 - b) Those which relate to the scriptures:
 - i) The word of the Lord (1 Sam. 3:1). In the dark days of Israel’s history God was silent, and the word of God was precious because it was “rare” (KJV).
 - c) Those which relate to the saints:
 - i) Precious thoughts (Psa. 139:17)
 - ii) Precious promises (2 Pet. 1:4)
 - iii) “Precious . . . is the death of his saints.” (Psa. 116:15)

Some Things in God’s Word That Are Revealed To Us As “Precious”

- 1) **The word of the Lord is precious (1 Sam. 3:1)**
 - a) In Psa. 126:5-6 the scriptures are spoken of as “precious seed” and it is precious because:
 - i) It is God’s principle way of communicating to us concerning:
 1. The way of salvation, for Paul wrote it is able to make us “wise unto salvation”. (2 Tim. 3:15)
 2. Guidance for life, for it is the lamp and light to guide our footsteps. (Psa. 119:105)

Sermon Outlines
The Precious Things Of God and From God

3. Spiritual correction, for it is God's final authority for doctrine, reproof, and correction for spiritual growth. (2 Tim. 3:16)
4. Reveals to us the wonders of Christ. (Jn. 5:39)

2) **He is the precious corner stone (Isa. 28:16)**

- a) When our Lord was here and first began His public ministry we are informed of the response of the people:
 - i) They heard Him gladly. (Mk. 12:37)
 - ii) They wondered at the gracious words which proceedeth out of His mouth. (Lk. 4:22)
- b) Then things changed. He was too straight and honest, and instead of admiration there was a mixture of envy (Matt. 27:18) and hatred (Lk. 19:14; Jn. 15:24-25). Against this background He told the parable of the husbandmen and the Master sending His Son, the Heir whom they slew (Matt. 21:33-41). Against the background of His rejection He revealed God's purposes for Him, saying: "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" (Matt. 21:42)
- c) He exclusively is the:
 - i) Foundation Stone, so strong and secure (Isa. 28:16)
 - ii) Corner Stone, pre-eminent and permanent (Eph. 2:20)
 - iii) Precious Stone, perfect and priceless beyond computation (1 Pet. 2:7)
 - iv) Cut Stone, Mighty to break and subdue (Dan. 2:34)
 - v) Living Stone, raised from the dead and lives in the power of an endless life (1 Pet 2:4; Heb. 7:16)
 - vi) Tried Stone, tested but utterly impervious to sin, without sin or fault (Isa. 28:16; Jn. 18:38; Heb. 4:15).

3) **The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is precious (1 Pet. 1:19)**

- a) It is precious because, it alone:
 - i) Can cleanse from every sin (1 Jn. 1:7)
 - ii) Can redeem man to God and make men kings and priests unto God (Rev. 5:10)
 - iii) Can assure of perfect and eternal security. To Israel God said: "When I see the Blood, I will pass over you" (Ex. 12:13; Rom. 5:9)
 - iv) Can give peace with God (Col. 1:20)
 - v) Can purge the conscience (Heb. 9:14)
- b) Because of whose it was: being the Blood of "Christ" (1 Cor. 10:16); "Jesus" (Heb. 10:19); the "Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27); "Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:2); "His Son" (1 Jn. 1:7); and "His own" (Acts 20:28).

Well may we sing with heartfelt praise:

Christ our Redeemer died on the cross,
Died for the sinner, paid all his due.
All who receive Him need never fear,
Yes, He will pass, will pass over you.

Refrain
When I see the blood, when I see the blood,
When I see the blood, I will pass, I will pass over you.

Sermon Outlines
The Precious Things Of God and From God

Chiefest of sinners, Jesus will save;
As He has promised, so He will do;
Oh, sinner, hear Him, trust in His Word,
Then He will pass, will pass over you.

Judgment is coming, all will be there.
Who have rejected, who have refused?
Oh, sinner, hasten, let Jesus in,
Oh, He will pass, will pass over you.

O great compassion! O boundless love!
Jesus hath power, Jesus is true;
All who believe are safe from the storm,
Oh, He will pass, will pass over you.

. . . John G. Foote & E. A. H

4) **Precious Promises (2 Pet. 1:4)**

a) We live in a world under the power of the Devil who is a liar (Jn. 8:44) and from infancy all humanity tells lies (Psa. 58:3). Promises are broken and the spoken word means nothing. In contrast to Satan and man the God of truth (Deut. 32:4) of whom it is said: “Thy word is true” (Psa. 119:160) and the “scripture cannot be broken” (Jn. 10:35), gives us “exceeding great and precious promises” (2 Pet. 1:4). Some of those promises are:

- i) “I give unto them (His sheep) eternal life; and they shall never perish” (Jn. 10:28)
- ii) “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself” (Jn. 14:3)
- iii) “My God shall supply all your need” (Phil. 4:19)
- iv) “All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” (2 Cor. 1:20)

5) **Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints (Psa. 116:15)**

a) The question is, “Why is the death of a saint precious in the sight of the Lord?” Some of the reasons it is precious to the Lord is because:

- i) It is the sowing of the seed which results in bringing forth fruit. (Jn. 12:24)
- ii) It will, in part, result in the Lord seeing “the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied” (Isa. 53:11)
- iii) It will, by their resurrection, be a declaration of the defeat of Satan, even as our Lord’s was (Heb. 2:14-15).

6) **Precious thoughts (Psa. 139:17)**

a) While this Psalm reminds us that God is all knowing (vv. 1-6); ever present (vv. 7-12); all powerful (vv. 13-18); and unchangingly righteous (vv. 19-24); yet by these truths it is a Psalm of comfort. At the end of each stanza a comment of assurance or encouragement is made:

- i) “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it” (v. 6)
- ii) “The darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee” (v. 12)
- iii) “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O GOD! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with Thee” (vv. 17-18)
- iv) “Search me, O GOD . . . and know my thoughts. . . and lead me in the way everlasting” (vv. 23-24).

Sermon Outlines
The Precious Things Of God and From God

- b) This is a Psalm between two individuals, God and the Psalmist. Note the references to God, the personal pronouns relating to God and the individual. As we also dwell on the superlative blessings of God and His thoughts from eternity toward us, we will also say, "How precious are thy thoughts unto me O Lord".

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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