

These Are Precious

by John Isaac Edwards

The word “precious” occurs 76 times throughout the pages of divine inspiration. It suggests that which is costly and of great value. Thus, we study.

1) The Word of the Lord. 1 Samuel 3:1 records, “...And the word of the Lord was precious in those days...” God had not spoken for some time; thus His word was precious in those days. It still is! It’s precious because of all that it does: builds up (Acts 20:32), produces faith (Rom. 10:17), reconciles (2 Cor. 5:19), sanctifies and cleanses (Eph. 5:26), begets (Jas. 1:18), saves (Jas. 1:21), and brings about growth (1 Pet. 2:2).

2) Death. 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” (Ps. 116:15). Not all death is precious. The only death described as precious in the Bible is the death of saints. To be a saint is to be sanctified as Paul penned, “...to them that are sanctified in

Christ Jesus, called to be saints...” (1 Cor. 1:2). Let us be “...baptized into Christ...” (Gal. 3:27) and “...walk ye in him” (Col. 2:7) so that when death comes to us, it will be precious.

3) Seed. Again the Psalmist declared, “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Ps. 126:6). In the Parable of the Sower, “...The seed is the word of God” (Lk. 8:11). There is no more precious seed than the word of God. It is able to produce a Christian, a child of God! “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:23).

4) Unity. The unity Psalm expresses this sentiment: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard...” (Ps.

133:1-2). Unity is good, pleasant, and precious! There is nothing good, pleasant, or precious about division! Not only did the Psalmist sing of unity, Jesus prayed for it (Jn. 17:20-21) and the apostles pleaded for it (1 Cor. 1:10).

5) God’s Thoughts. The Psalmist exclaimed, “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!” (Ps. 139:17). God’s thoughts are on a far higher plane than ours! Isaiah revealed, “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” (Is. 55:8-9).

6) Wisdom. The wise man said 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). A good place to gain wisdom is by reading and applying the book of Proverbs which has as its keynote: **Wisdom**. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...” (Prov. 9:10).

7) **A Good Name.** The Preacher said, "A good name is better than precious ointment..." (Eccl. 7:1). Many will trade a good name for things of lesser worth. Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches..."

8) **Trial of Faith.** Peter penned, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth..." (1 Pet. 1:7). This was written at a time when the faith of Christians was being put to the test. When your faith is tried, will it prove to be genuine?

9) **The Blood of Christ.** Peter taught, "...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold,...But with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Pet. 1:18-19). 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). Have you thought about all that this

blood does? It purchased the church (Acts 20:28), remits sins (Mt. 26:28), justifies (Rom. 5:9), redeems (Eph. 1:7), makes rich (Eph. 2:13), brings peace (Col. 1:20), purges (Heb. 9:14), sanctifies (Heb. 13:12), cleanses (1 Jn. 1:7), and washes (Rev. 1:5).

10) **Christ.** It was prophesied, "...Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation..." (Is. 28:16). Peter quoted this and applied it to Christ. "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious...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" (1 Pet. 2:4-7). Christ is not precious to everyone. He is precious to those who believe, and to believe is to obey as this text joins belief with obedience. Is Christ precious to you?

11) **Faith.** Peter began his second epistle with these words: "...to them that have obtained like precious faith..." (2 Pet. 1:1). Have you thought about the preciousness of your faith? It is precious because God said so, because of its source (Rom. 10:17), and what it does: purifies (Acts 15:9), justifies (Rom. 5:1) and saves (Eph. 2:8).

12) **God's Promises.** Finally, it is written, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Pet. 1:4). God is a promise-making, promise-keeping God! God's promises are precious in that, as Paul said, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).

Are these precious to you?

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