

JCI #132 Real Worth – Precious 1 & 2 Peter
January 20, 2012

God has brought us into another year together. A new year is a great time to re-evaluate our lives, consider what really matters, and make course corrections for God's glory.

As I've been visiting the last week weeks among many in God's flock that are walking through valleys of suffering and hardship, I have been sharing with them from Peter's letters. Peter wrote both letters to suffering saints, to give them solid hope on the slippery slopes of affliction. He constantly compares present, temporary suffering with future, everlasting glory. Whether saint or Savior, our hardship and hope are shared alike. In the face of the loss of earthly treasures (and we will all eventually lose all earthly treasures through death) Peter wants us to remember what has true and lasting worth.

Peter was very fond of the word and its derivative, which we translate "precious". "Precious" is to be of great worth & value, rare and expensive, costly, no substitute for, and essential for life. The following are precious things of greatest value.

PRECIOUS PROMISES 2 Peter 1:4

...He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Of Great Value – there is nothing as valuable as God's promises. They are life giving (divine nature 2 Peter 1:4) – new birth (1 Peter 1:23) – creating faith (Romans 10:17).

Rare – What makes *precious metal*... well... *precious*, expensive, and valuable? It's that it is rare. That's why gold costs more than dirt! There's less of it! We have all seen someone roll their eyes and say "promises, promises!" The

implication is that all these promises we hear are never kept. The most common promise is the broken kind! But God's promises are precious promises, the rare kind! Every one of them is kept by Him without fail (2 Cor 1:20).

No substitute for and essential for life – While air and water are not rare, yet there is no substitute for them. Without air and water we die! Nothing is as precious as that for which nothing else will do! Without God's promises we all perish eternally. How precious are His life giving promises.

“Precious promise, God has given, to the weary passersby all the way from earth to heaven, “I will guide thee with mine eye!””

PRECIOUS BLOOD 1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Of Great Value – Without the shedding of Christ's blood, there is no forgiveness. (Heb 9:22-23) We are “redeemed” by this precious blood. The essence of redemption is freedom from slavery and restoration to inheritance. There is nothing so valuable as this “precious blood” that bought our souls and set us free and brings us an eternal inheritance. Isn't it striking that Peter calls silver and gold “corruptible” (rotten), and Christ's blood “precious”. The world has switched the price tags on what has true value and worth! True wealth is found from Christ's hand. Revelation 3:18

Rare – Christ's blood is sinless blood. All mankind since Adam's fall are sinners. While physical blood may prolong physical life, it is only the pure and sinless blood of Christ that can redeem our souls and provide everlasting life. His blood is “one of a kind.”

No substitute for and essential for life – Only the blood of Christ is “cleansing” blood. (1 John 1:7) Only the blood of Christ is “redeeming” blood. (1 Peter 1:18-19) Only the blood of Christ is divine-law-satisfying blood. (Romans 5:9) Only the blood of Christ brings forgiveness. (Eph 1:7) Only the blood of Christ brings reconciliation. (Eph 2:13) Only the blood of Christ cleanses our consciences. (Heb 9:14) Only the blood of Christ provides access to God with confidence. (Heb 10:19) Only the blood of Christ makes us holy in God’s sight! (Heb 13:12)

“O, precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow. No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus. “

PRECIOUS FAITH 1 Peter 1:6-7

In this (coming inheritance & glory) you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith— that is more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Of Great Value – Faith in Christ is worth more than gold. It is of such value that God determines to purify it through suffering so that He gets even greater glory and we get greater rewards. “What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world (all that lost men consider of greatest value) and loses his own soul? The value of saving faith is infinite.

Rare – So rare is true, saving faith that Jesus asked the question in Luke 18:8, “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” Many are those who claim to have faith, and yet are lost. (Matthew 7:22-23) We are enjoined to examine ourselves (2 Cor 13:5) to see if we have true saving faith.

No substitute for and essential for life - We are saved by faith (Eph 2:8-10), justified by faith (Romans 5:1), kept through faith (1 Peter 1:5), walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7) overcome the world by faith (1 John 5:4) and the list goes on and on. All the works, all the sacrifice, all the morality, all the religion in the world

cannot substitute for simple, child-like faith in Christ as Savior and Lord.
(Luke 18:17)

PRECIOUS SAVIOR 1 Peter 2:4, 6, 7

“...a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious

“Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious...”

“Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious”

Of Greatest Value – How shall we ever place a value on our Savior? The choirs of the redeemed saints and holy angels proclaim it in song as they fall down on their faces declaring “Worthy is the Lamb... to receive honor and glory!”

Rare – There is none like Christ. He is God’s “only” begotten son. (John 3:16) He is the only way to the Father. (John 14:6) He is the one and only Mediator between God and men. (1 Tim 2:5)

No substitute for and essential for life – There is no substitute for Christ Jesus. He that has the Son has life. He that does not have the Son of God does not have life! 1 John 5:12 There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved! Acts 4:12

Dear friends, in a world in which all the price tags have been switched, come back to that which is truly precious...

your precious faith

in the precious promises

procured by the precious blood

of our precious Savior, Jesus Christ.

Oh how rich are those with such eternal treasures. O the delight of possessing Him by who we are owned forevermore.

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SELF CHECK:

- 1) Do I treasure Christ? Am I amazed, delighted, satisfied, glorying in Him?
- 2) Am I discontented? Why? Is it with my spiritual progress and a longing to bring greater glory to Christ? Or am I focused on temporal values, captured by the world?
- 3) Am I sharing the treasures of Christ eagerly and generously?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Revelation 2-3 List the eternal treasures promised to those who treasure Christ. Examine the values of the Laodecean church and their self-estimate with the evaluation of Christ and His promised treasures.

Do a word study on "precious" and its associated words in the OT and NT.

"Lord God, You are Worthy! You are the definition of precious. There is none like You! Awaken my heart to see Your worth, and to treasure You above all the shoddy, counterfeit offers of a perishing world. Worthy, worthy is the Lamb! And in that worthy Name alone dare I pray to Thee. Amen."

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val