

OUR PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2010

TEXT: 1PETER 1:3-7 - 2 PETER 1:1-4

:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1Peter :4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, :5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. :6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, :7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 1:3–7 NKJV)

1:“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3: as 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 Peter 1:1–4 NKJV)

INTRODUCTION:

As believers, there are things, which we possess that are truly precious. All the material wealth that we esteem will one day perish. All the people we count to be so precious will also perish from this earth. However, the Lord that will never perish or be taken away has given us some very precious things. I would like to share these precious things with you this morning.

To accomplish this, we are going to have to travel through both of Peter's epistles. However, it is a journey worth taking. Notice with me Our Precious Possessions.

I. 1 Peter 1:3-7 THERE ARE PRECIOUS TRIALS

:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1Peter :4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, :5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. :6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, :7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 1:3–7 NKJV)

A. Peter tells us that the trials of life are very precious things. We may look at the valleys we are forced to navigate and think that our lives are horrible things. Yet, Peter tells us that trials have a way of helping us.

(III. Note that Peter refers to the refining process that is used to purify gold. When we are put to the test in life, it has the effect of removing the impurities from our lives. Often, it is the trials of life that will bring us closer to the Lord.)

B. In the valleys of life, we are reminded of several great truths that we often forget when life is easy. Allow me to share some of them with you this morning.

1. We are reminded that Jesus is always with us - Heb. 13:5.

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”” (Hebrews 13:5 NKJV)

2. We are reminded that the Lord plans even our valleys.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28 NKJV)

“I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:7 NKJV)

3. We are reminded that our trials are helping us grow in the Lord.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,” (2 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV)

4. We are reminded that something better is waiting just down the way.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18 NKJV)

5. We are reminded that even when times are bad, God is still good.

“Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. Job 1:21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.”” (Job 1:20–21 NKJV)

C. The trials and valleys of life are no fun and we would all rather be spared having to go through them, but when we have gone through the valley and come out on the other side, we will know the Lord better than we could have otherwise and we will be stronger in the faith than we ever could have been.

I. There Are Precious Trials

II. 1 Peter 1:19 THERE IS PRECIOUS BLOOD

1 Pet 1:19 "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"

A. Peter tells us that the Blood of Jesus is a precious substance. He means that it is something that is of great price and is to be held in honor and great esteem.

B. What is it about the blood of Jesus that makes it so special?

1. It is the price of redemption - 1 Pet. 1:19

2. It is the proof of God's love for us.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NKJV)

3. It is the only substance known to God or man that can cleanse away our sins.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood," (Revelation 1:5 NKJV)

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7 NKJV)

C. Since the blood of Jesus is precious, it deserves to be cherished by the believer. We make much of the cross in our Christian churches. However, the cross doesn't save anyone! It was what happened at the cross that makes the difference. It was when the Lamb of God poured out His life in His blood that sin was forever atoned for, and redemption completed!

I. There Are Precious Trials

II. There Is Precious Blood

III. 1 Peter 2:6-7 THERE IS A PRECIOUS SAVIOR

1 Pet 2:6-7, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 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,"

A. Peter now moves on to tell us that Jesus Himself is precious. The word used here refers to a thing of great value. Peter is telling us that Jesus is valuable to those who believe. In fact, His value to us is beyond all human comprehension

B. Allow me to tell you why I believe Jesus is a precious to the saints of God.

1. Because He loves us.

“The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.” (Jeremiah 31:3 NKJV)

2. Because He understands our needs.

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15 NKJV)

3. Because He is always near to help us.

“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.” (Psalms 46:1 NKJV)

4. Because He paid the ultimate price to save us.

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13 NKJV)

C. One more thing that makes Him precious to me is the fact that when I came to Him for salvation, carrying all the baggage of my sins, He still wanted me. He didn't turn me away, but He saved me by His grace - John 6:37. Since then, there have been many time that I have failed and many opportunities that I have wasted, but not once has the Lord turned me away when I came to Him with a repentant heart. He has been faithful to forgive and to restore that which I have broken in my foolishness, 1 John 1:9. When these things are all added up, it is easy to see why He is called a precious Savior!

I. There Are Precious Trials

II. There Is Precious Blood

III. There Is A Precious Savior

IV. 2 Peter 1:1 THERE IS A PRECIOUS FAITH

2 Pet 1:1, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:"

A. Now, Peter moves on to tell us that our faith, that is, our system of belief is a precious thing as well.

B. Many of us grew up hearing about the cross, the blood and the plan of salvation made possible through the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we often take what we have in Jesus for granted and fail to realize how special it truly is. You see, our faith is precious because it is the only one that is valid in the eyes of God! All the people involved in all the other religious systems in the world are being deceived by their false doctrines. There is one, and only one, means of salvation and that is through faith in Jesus Christ, John 14:6.

C. Our faith is precious because:

1. It is free.

"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price." (Isaiah 55:1 NKJV)

2. It is open to all.

"For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13 NKJV)

3. It is complete.

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25 NKJV)

4. It is totally the work of God.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, Ephesians 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)

5. It is eternal.

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand." (John 10:28 NKJV)

I. There Are Precious Trials

II. There Is Precious Blood

III. There Is A Precious Savior

IV. There Is A Precious Faith

V. 2 Peter 1:4 THERE ARE PRECIOUS PROMISES

2 Pet 1:4, "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."

A. Peter's last statement about precious things is found in this verse. He tells us that there are some promises of God that are valuable and are to be held in great esteem.

B. Allow me to just remind you of a few. Some of which I have already touched on this evening.

1. There is the promise of His Love.

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, Romans 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39 NKJV)

2. There is the promise of His Presence.

"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." (Matthew 28:20 NKJV)

3. There is the promise of His Provision.

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19 NKJV)

4. There is the promise of His Grace.

"For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things." (2 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV)

5. There is the promise of His Heaven - John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:4

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:1-3 NKJV)

CONCLUSION:

I think it is plain for us all to see this evening that God has indeed given us some very precious and valuable things. Are you cherishing them as you should be? Are you guarding the things of God and passing them along to others so that there will be another generation that knows God and will walk with Him? Maybe you need to claim one of His promises, they still work! Maybe you need to come and thank Him for being faithful to you. He is worthy of your praise.