

## OUR PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS

*II Peter 1:1-4*

### INTRODUCTION:

Five times in his two epistles, Simon Peter mentions possessions that are precious to the children of God.

When we think of something precious, we think of something that is valuable, is to be cherished, or that needs to be put in a safe or safe deposit box to be protected.

We all think of our children as precious. Most of us feel that way about the spouse. We cherish them and want to protect them and we hold them in high regard. Some own things that are precious to them.

Whatever it may be that you hold precious, you know exactly what I am talking about.

As children of God, there are things which we possess that are truly precious.

All the material wealth that we hold so highly will one day perish. All the people we count to be so precious will also perish from this earth.

But, we have been given some very precious things by the Lord that will never perish or be taken away.

### TRANS. SENTENCE:

Let's to look at these Precious Possessions that have been given to us by the Lord.

These precious things are found in **I** and **II Peter**.

### I. **THERE ARE PRECIOUS TRIALS** - *I Peter 1:7* - *"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".*

#### A. Peter Tells Us the Trials Of Life Are Very Precious

1. We may look at the valleys we travel and think how bad things are.
2. Yet, Peter tells us that trials have a way of helping us.
  - a. Peter refers to the refining process that is used to purify gold.
  - b. When we are put to the test, it has the effect of removing the impurities from our lives.
  - c. Often, it is the trials of life that brings 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. Note:

1. Jesus is always with us
  - a. *Hebrews 13:5* - *"for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*
  - b. The Disciples in the storm - *John 6:16-20*
2. Our valleys are designed by the Lord -

- a. *Romans 8:28* - Quote
  - b. *Isaiah 45:7* - "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil. I the Lord do all these things."
3. Our trials are helping us grow in the Lord - *II Corinthians 4:17* - "For our light afflictions, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."
  4. We have something far better waiting when we get to heaven. *Romans 8:18* - "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."
  5. Even when times are bad, God is still good - *Job 1:20-21*.
- C. The Trials And Valleys Of Life Are No Fun. We Would All Rather Be Spared Having To Go Through Them,
- D. But When We Have Gone Through the Valley and Come Out on the Other Side,
1. We will know the Lord better than we could have otherwise.
  2. Our faith will be stronger than we ever could have been.
  3. Examples:
    - a. The Disciples would have never known that Jesus could walk on water if there hadn't been a storm.
    - b. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would never have known that God would come to their aid if there hadn't been a fiery furnace.
    - c. Noah would have never known that God could keep him safe in the ark if there had never been a flood.
    - d. Mary and Martha would have never known that Jesus could raise the dead if Lazarus hadn't died.
    - e. The 5,000 would have never known that Jesus could feed the multitude if they hadn't first become hungry.
    - f. The list could go on, but the truth is plain to see. The valley shows us a side of God we could never see otherwise.
- I. There Are Precious Trials
- II. **THERE IS PRECIOUS BLOOD** - *I Peter 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 Precious. It means That It Is Something of Great Value 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 our redemption - *I Peter 1:19* - "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."
  2. It is the proof of God's love for us - *Romans 5:8* - "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

3. It is the only substance known to God or man that can cleanse away our sins:
  - a. *Revelation 1:5 - "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood."*
  - b. *I John 1:7 - "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
4. It is pure blood that was shed by an innocent man.
  - a. His blood and His death were accepted in place of our own by the Father in Heaven.
  - b. His blood is precious blood!

**C. Since The Blood Of Jesus Is Precious, It Deserves To Be Cherished By The Child Of God.**

1. Often times people great emphasis on the cross:
  - a. But it is not the cross that saves our souls.
  - b. It was what happened at the cross that makes the difference.
  - c. It was when the Lamb of God poured out His life in His blood that sin was forever atoned and redemption completed for all who would believe!
2. There are some that would take the Blood out of the hymnals and some that even take it out of their translation of the Word of God.
  - a. But folks, those of us who still cherish the blood need to take our stand on the side of right and guard the precious blood of Jesus. (Old song: *Nothing But The Blood of Jesus*)
  - b. We must see to it that there will always be those somewhere that are preaching and teaching that the blood, and the blood alone, makes one right with God.
  - c. His blood is precious blood and we need to cherish, protect and proclaim the blood of Jesus.

- I. There Are Precious Trials
- II. There Is Precious Blood

**III. THERE IS A PRECIOUS SAVIOR - *I Peter 2:6-7 - "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,"***

**A. Peter Now Tells Us That Jesus Himself Is Precious.**

1. The word used here refers to a thing of great value. Peter is telling us that Jesus is valuable to those who believe.

2. In fact, His value to us is beyond all human comprehension.

**B. Let Me Tell You Why I Believe Jesus Is Precious To The Children Of God.**

1. Because He:
  - a. Loves us – *Romans 8:38-39* – {38} *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, {39} Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
  - b. He Cares about us - *I Peter 5:7* - *"Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you."*
  - c. He Understands our needs – *Hebrews 4:15* - *"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."*
  - d. He is always Near to help us - *Psalms 46:1* - *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*
  - e. He paid the ultimate Price to save us - *John 15:13* - *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*
2. You can't put a price on things like that!
  - a. Men will fail you; those you love will let you down.
  - b. People all around you may never understand you or what you have to face in life, but there is a precious Savior named Jesus who can and does understand and care.

**C. One More Thing That Makes Him Precious To Me Is The Fact That When He Drew Me To Himself, Carrying All The Baggage Of My Sins, He Still Forgave All My Sins And Washed Me Whiter Than Snow In His Blood.**

1. He didn't turn me away, but He saved me by His grace - *John 6:37* - *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*
2. Since I have been saved I have failed Him many times and many opportunities that I have wasted:
  - a. BUT, the Lord has not once turned me away when I came to Him with a repentant heart.
  - b. He has been faithful to forgive and to restore that which I have broken in my foolishness - *I John 1:9* - *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
  - c. 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. THERE IS A PRECIOUS FAITH - *II Peter 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. In This Peter Tell Us That Our Faith in Christ Is Precious**

**B. Many Of Us Grew Up Hearing About The Cross, The Blood And The Plan Of Salvation Made Possible Through The Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. Therefore, we often take what we have in Jesus for granted, and neglect to realize how special it truly is.
2. You see, our faith is precious because it is the only way that is acceptable in the eyes of God!
  - a. All the people involved in other religions are being deceived by their false doctrines.
  - b. There is one, and only one way of salvation and that is through faith in Jesus Christ - *John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*

**C. Our Faith Is Precious Because:**

1. It is Free - *Revelation 22:17 - "And the spirit and the bride same, Come. And let him that is heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."*
2. It is Complete – *Hebrews 7:25 - "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*
3. It is Totally the Work of God; totally by Grace
  - a. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
  - b. *Hebrews 12:2 - "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*
4. It is Foolproof - *Acts 16:31 - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved ...."*
5. It is Eternal
  - a. *John 6:37 - "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*
  - b. *John 10:28 - "And I given unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."*
6. It is something that can be Lived
  - a. In all work-based religions, I would stay worried that I had left something out and at the end of my life, I'd be left out.
  - b. Our salvation, on the other hand, has been paid in full and we have been given eternal life.

**D. Considering The Precious Nature Of Our Faith, We Should Never Be Guilty Of Taking It For Granted, But We Should Promote It And Protect It Against The Evils Of Our Day.**

1. You see, the way we believe is being attacked by the world.
2. We are called intolerant and narrow-minded because we say that Jesus is the only way a person can be saved.
  - a. But, according to the Word of God, we are totally right!
  - b. Therefore, we must cherish our faith.
    - (1) By living for Jesus with our whole heart!
    - (2) By cherishing and seeing the value in the things He has given to us.
    - (3) By protecting the faith and passing it on to another generation.
3. Faith is a precious thing; therefore, let us ever seek to treat it so.

- I. There Are Precious Trials
- II. There Is Precious Blood
- III. There Is A Precious Savior
- IV. There Is A Precious Faith

**V. THERE ARE PRECIOUS PROMISES - *II Peter 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. Let Me Remind You Of A Few. Some Of Which I Have Already Touched On This Evening.
  1. There is the promise of His Love - *Romans 8:38-39; Jeremiah 31:3*
  2. There Is the promise of His Presence - *Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5*
  3. There is the promise of His Provision – *Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25-33*
  4. There is the promise of His Grace - *II Corinthians 12:9*
  5. There is the promise of His Heaven - *John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:4*
- C. It Has Been Said That There Are Over 7,000 Promises Given In The Word Of God.
  1. I have never counted them personally, however I do know this; every promise God has ever made, He will bring to pass!
    - a. He will never be caught in a lie, because He can't lie - *Hebrews 6:18.*
    - b. He will never be found unfaithful, because He has the power to do what He has promised. *Romans 4:21- And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."*
  2. If God promised it, then you can take it to the bank!

D. In This World In Which We Live, There Aren't A Lot Of Things That We Can Hold On To.

1. People change, their promises fail, but the promises of God are forever!
2. You can hold onto them for they shall never fail!
3. That makes them very precious and valuable to the child of God!

**CONCLUSION:**

I think it is plain for us all to see 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 thank Him for being faithful to you. He is worthy of your praise.