

Jesus is Precious to Me

2 Pet 2:7

Introduction:

1. The series is -- *Undervalued Assets—the Precious Things of God*.
 - a. “precious” comes from the same Latin root as “price” / “premium.”
 - b. It refers to things of great value; those things that are highly cherished.
2. If I were to ask you to name the most precious things in your life, you would perhaps tell me about your children or about loved ones.
 - a. Perhaps you’d share a precious memory.
 - b. Maybe there is an object in your home that holds great significance 4u
 - c. People talk about precious stones and precious metals.
3. But we are looking at what the Bible describes as precious
 - a. From God’s perspective what should we most highly esteem in life
 - b. Look up “precious”- there are about a dozen items, realities or truths
4. The first sermon Charles Spurgeon preached ←

I. Why is Jesus So Precious to Me? – Col 1

A. Christ is the Savior – vs 13-14 ←

1. He Delivered Us – vs 13a
 - a) *“Delivered” = “rescue from danger”- to “draw to oneself”*
 - b) *We couldn’t deliver ourselves from the guilt / penalty of sin*
 - c) *We were not gradually rescued from Satan’s power, but instantly*
2. He Translated Us – vs 13b
 - a) *“Translated” was the word used to describe the deportation of a population from one country to another*
 - b) *Jesus did not just deliver us from bondage to wander aimlessly*
 - c) *But He also moved us into His own kingdom of light*
 - d) *He made us victors over Satan’s kingdom of darkness*
 - e) *God delivered the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land*
3. He Redeemed Us – vs 14a
 - a) *“Redeemed” = to free someone by paying a ransom*
 - b) *Paul is not suggesting Jesus paid a ransom to the devil to free us*
 - c) *By His death / resurrection, Jesus met the demands of God’s law*
4. He Forgave Us – vs 14b
 - a) *Redemption and forgiveness go together – Eph 1:7*
 - b) *“Forgive” = “to send away” or “cancel a debt”*
 - c) *Christ not only set us free and transferred us to a new kingdom, but He has canceled every debt so that we can’t be enslaved again*
 - d) *Satan can’t find anything in the files that will indict us*

B. Christ is the Creator – vs 15-17

1. He Existed Before Creation – vs 15

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

- a) *“firstborn” does not refer to time, but to place or status*
- b) *He is first in importance or first in rank*
- c) *Jesus was not the first One created since He is Creator*
- d) *Paul used “image” to make it clear that Jesus was not created*
 - (1) Image = exact representation and revelation
 - (2) Hebrews said He was “the express image of His Person” – Heb 1:3
 - (3) “He that hath seen me has seen the Father” – Jn 14:9

2. He Created All Things – vs 16

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

- a) *Since Jesus created all things, He Himself is uncreated*
- b) *“For” can be translated “because”*
- c) *Jesus is the Firstborn because He created all things*
- d) *No wonder the winds and waves obeyed Him*
- e) *It is no surprise that death and disease fled from Him*
- f) *He is Master over all*
- g) *Greek philosophers thought that everything needed a primary cause, an instrumental cause, and a final cause*
- h) *The primary cause is the plan, the instrumental cause is the power and the final cause is the purpose*
- i) *In creation, Jesus is the primary cause, He planned, He was the instrumental cause, He produced it, He was the final cause, He did it for his own pleasure*

3. He Holds All Things Together – vs 17

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

- a) *“Consist” is perfect active ind of sunistemi - to place together, to hold together*
- b) *A guide took a group of people through an atomic laboratory and explained how all matter was composed of rapidly moving electric particles. The tourists studied models of molecules and were amazed to learn that matter is made up primarily of space. During the question period, one visitor asked, “If this is the way matter works, what holds it all together?” For that, the guide had no answer. But the Christian has an answer: Jesus Christ!*
- c) *Because “He is before all things,” He can hold all things together.*
- d) *Again, this is another affirmation that Jesus Christ is God.*
- e) *Only God exists before all of Creation, and only God can make Creation cohere.*

C. Christ is Head of His Church – vs 18

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

1. His church originated in Him
 - a) *Today His churches operate through Him*
 - b) *Head = source or origin*
 - c) *Pre-eminence = first place*
2. If Christ created all things and He is above all things and He holds all things together, then it makes sense to submit to Him, bow before Him and give Him first place
3. He is to be pre-eminent
 - a) *Christ doesn't just want a place in your life, He wants and deserves first place*
 - b) *But the false teachers of Colossae could never give Jesus Christ the place of preeminence; for, according to their philosophy, Jesus Christ was only one of many "emanations" from God.*
 - c) *He was not the only way to God ([John 14:6](#))*
 - d) *He was but one rung on the ladder!*

II. Since Jesus is Precious to Me – “So What?” – Phil 4

A. There Will Be Right Praying – vs 6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1. Stop worrying -- This is a command from God
 - a) *“Be careful” – to be full of care, to worry, to be anxious*
 - b) *The root word is “merizo” which means “to pull apart”*
 - c) *The “cares” Paul has in mind here are things that come upon us, tearing us in different directions.*
 - d) *Christians are not to worry because of the Master we have*
 - e) *Worry expresses a distrust in God's promises and providence - it is practical atheism*
2. Instead, take everything to the Lord
 - a) *Prayer – adoration, devotion and worship*
 - b) *Supplication - ask*
 - (1) Here is earnest sharing of our needs and problems
 - (2) This is not a matter of carnal energy but spiritual intensity
 - (3) This is the kind of praying our Savior did in the Garden of Gethsemane
 - c) *Thanksgiving*
 - (1) After adoration and supplication comes appreciation
 - (2) Certainly the Father enjoys hearing His children say “Thank You”

B. There Will Be Right Thinking – vs 8

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

1. Peace involves the heart and the mind – Isa 26:
3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.
2. Wrong thinking leads to wrong feeling, and before long the heart and mind are pulled apart and we are strangled by worry.
3. **Whatever is true**
 - a) Satan is the liar ([John 8:44](#)), and he wants to corrupt our minds with his lies ([2 Cor. 11:3](#)).
 - b) The Holy Spirit controls our minds through truth ([John 17:17](#); [1 John 5:6](#)), but the devil tries to control them through lies.
4. **Whatever is honest and just**
 - a) This means "worthy of respect and right." Noble
 - b) This does not mean we hide our heads in the sand and avoid what is unpleasant and displeasing, but it does mean we do not focus our attention on dishonorable things and permit them to control our thoughts.
5. **Whatever is pure, lovely, and of good report**
 - a) "Pure" probably refers to moral purity, since the people then, as now, were constantly attacked by temptations to sexual impurity
 - b) "Lovely" means "beautiful, attractive."
 - c) "Of good report" means "worth talking about, appealing."
 - d) The believer must major on the high and noble thoughts, not the base thoughts of this corrupt world.
6. **Whatever possesses virtue and praise.**
 - a) If it has virtue, it will motivate us to do better; and if it has praise, it is worth commending to others.
 - b) No Christian can afford to waste "mind power" on thoughts that tear him down or that would tear others down if shared

III. I Can Show Others that Jesus is Precious to Me by Living the Spirit-Filled Life – Eph 5:18-21

A. The Command – vs 18

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

1. Notice the two verbs – drunk ... filled
2. "Filled" has the idea of controlled
3. Don't let wine control us, but let the Holy Spirit control us

B. The Description – vs 19-21

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

- Here is the description of the Spirit-filled Christian
 - There are five participles here – present ptc
 - We can't obey this part until we have obeyed vs 18
1. Speaking – Love for God's Word
 2. Singing and Making Melody– Joy in One's Heart
 - a) *Source of the Joy – “in your heart”*
 - (1) Our joy comes from a heart that is overflowing with love for the Lord
 - (2) It is the heart that is supposed to make the voice sing
 - (3) If the heart is not right then the joy will not be right
 - (4) Of course the “fruit” of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22 includes such “joy.”
 - b) *Subject of the Joy – “to the Lord”*
 - (1) When the congregation sings, we are singing to the Lord
 - (2) When the choir sings, they are singing to the Lord
 - (3) When a soloist sings, they are singing to the Lord (that's why I don't clap)
 - (4) Singing in our church is not a performance for the people, it is an offering to the Lord
 3. Giving Thanks – Thankfulness
 - a) *“for all things”*
 - (1) We can only give thanks for all things when we have absolute confidence in the sovereignty of God
 - (2) When I realize that everything that happens in my life crosses God's desk first and He allows it for my good or to better conform me to the image of His Son – I can then be thankful in all things.
 - b) *“Always”*
 - (1) In every situation in every circumstance we are to be thankful
 - (2) This is not natural, not easy, you have to be filled with the Spirit to do this.
 - c) *Notice there is nothing here about a mysterious prayer language*
 4. Submitting - Meekness
 - a) *When Jesus is precious, then it will affect your relationships*
 - b) *We need an attitude of humility that puts others above ourselves*
 - c) *Conflicts come because we want our way – plans - agenda*

Conclusion:

1. Is Jesus precious to you?
2. If He isn't, then perhaps He's not your Lord and Savior
3. What Jesus has done for me
 - a. Religious people boast of themselves and of what they have done for their gods. For example: "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess'" (Luke 18:11f).
 - b. Note that he prayed "with himself", addressed himself as "God", asked nothing from God, expressed no disappointment at receiving nothing from God, was satisfied with himself and his own works, and bragged of being better than others (cp. Matthew 7:22f).
 - c. Christians, on the other hand boast of what their Lord has done for them (as in Psalm 66:16).
 - d. They obey Christ's exhortation to "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you" (Luke 8:39).
 - e. Let me tell you what Jesus has done for me.
 1. He assumed my human nature so I could partake of His divine nature (John 1:1, 14; 2 Peter 1:4).
 2. He became poor so I could become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).
 3. He was born of a woman so I could be born of God (Galatians 4:4; John 1:12f).
 4. He became the Son of Man so I could become a son of God (Luke 19:10; Galatians 3:26).
 5. He was born under the law of God so I could be free from the law of sin and death (Galatians 4:4; Romans 8:2).
 6. He was made sin for me so I could be become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 7. He was condemned so I could be justified (Isaiah 53:11).
 8. He endured God's wrath so I could enjoy God's grace (Isaiah 53:4f; Romans 5:12-21).
 9. He died so I could live (Romans 5:8-10).
 10. He suffered the hell I deserve so I could enjoy Him in heaven (Psalm 18:4f; John 17:24).
 11. He saved me by His grace and gave me faith to believe in Him (Ephesians 2:8f).
 12. He did this for all who believe in Him. Do you?
4. Won't you trust Him today?

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:
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