

A Precious Life

Job 28:10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many things in this life are important to us. We try to protect ourselves and our property with insurance . . . locks . . . alarms, etc.
1. Important to us because we value them.
 2. We value them because we deem them necessary and helpful to our lives.
- B. **Job 28:10** – “And He sees every precious thing.”
1. **77** times the word “precious” appears in the Bible. **16** of those in the NT.
 2. That which is precious is greater than that which is merely important.
- C. Among the most precious things in life are relationships.
1. **Relationships to people are precious**
 - a. Born into families as sons & daughters.
 - b. We have parents . . . brothers . . . sisters in our families.
 - c. We discover grandparents . . . aunts & uncles . . . cousins . . . And neighbors
 - d. We make friends in childhood and all along the way.
 - e. We grow up, fall in love, and marry someone very special . . . Someone very special and very precious.
 - f. Precious children are born to us.
 - g. Together we are a family . . . A very special and precious family.
 - h. We come to realize more and more just how precious life is.
 2. **For many, a relationship to the Lord’s Church is precious.**
 - a. We obey the gospel and become Christians.
 - b. We find brothers and sisters in Christ to be very precious to us as we are to them.
 - c. We find it a precious thing to be included in the family of God.
 3. **A relationship to God is precious.**
 - a. He is our Heavenly Father and we are, for now, his earthly child.
Romans 8:14-17 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”
 - b. We discover that many things also are precious to God.
 1. 1 Peter 1:7 – A genuine faith is precious to God.
 2. 2 Peter 1:4 – God’s promises to us are precious.

3. 1 Peter 3:4 – A gentle and quiet spirit is precious to God
4. 1 Peter 2:4 – Jesus Christ is precious to God.
5. 1 Peter 1:19 – The blood of Jesus Christ is precious to God.

SOMETHING ELSE IS PRECIOUS TO GOD . . . VERY PRECIOUS TO GOD . . . THE DEATH OF HIS PEOPLE.

- A. **Psalm 116:15-16** – “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. O LORD, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds.”
1. What gospel preacher has not used this passage to comfort bereaved persons during a memorial service for a departed saint?
 2. The Hebrew word rendered "precious" means costly, as in precious stones, valuable.
 3. The idea here is, that the death of saints is an object of value . . . that God regards it as of importance . . . that it is connected with His great plans, and that there are great purposes to be accomplished by it.
- B. The Bible has much to say abo "death" . . . 395 times in the Bible . . . "Dying" (13 times) and Dead (279 times) Cumulatively that is 687 times.
1. Death is a departure . . . the separation of the soul from the body. A departure from this world to the next. Ecclesiastes 12:5
 2. Death is an appointment God has made for man. Hebrews 9:27
 3. Death is both certain and uncertain. Certain that it will come but uncertain as to when.
 4. Death is the end of our earthly labors.
 5. Death is the last enemy of man. 1 Corinthians 15:25-26
 6. Death will be a gain for the Christian. Philippians 1:21
 7. Death is an emancipation for the righteous . . . emancipated from earthly labors. Revelation 14:13
 8. Death is not the end of one's influence in this life. **Hebrews 11:4** – “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.”
- C. Psalm 116:15 speaks God's assessment and feelings for His children.
1. **Romans 5:8** – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 2. **Romans 8:35-39** – “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 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.”

3. This assurance gives us strength in life and confidence in death.

D. I must confess we don't know much about what happens after death. We know only what the Bible tells us.

1. We know that death is not the end of life but a transition from this life to another one.

2. We know that God is with His children in this life and His children are with Him in the next.

3. We know that God's children have a place prepared for them. John 14:1-3

E. Disease may claim the body, but God claims our the soul and prepares a new body for it in a place far beyond the reach of disease and death as we know them here.

CONCLUSION:

A. For times of darkness the Lord gives us light.

For times of uncertainty the Lord gives us assurance.

For time of weakness the Lord gives us strength.

For the time of death the Lord gives us eternal life.

For eternity He gives us an abiding place in His glorious presence.

B. Hear God's Word!

1. **1 Corinthians 2:9** – “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’”

2. **2 Corinthians 5:9-10** – “We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

3. **Ecclesiastes 7:1** – “A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth.”

C. A Precious Life in God's sight will lead to a precious death in God's sight.

D. The death of the righteous

1. Is precious. **Psalms 116:15** – “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.”

2. Is blessed. **Revelation 14:13** – “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

3. Is gain. **Philippians 1:21** – “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”

4. Is victory. **1 Corinthians 15:54** – “. . . Death is swallowed up in victory.”

5. Is eternal life. **Titus 1:2** – “In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began”

E. Faithful brother, faithful sister in Christ, when the time comes, do not be afraid to close your eyes in that sleep that will enable you to go to the Father. Rest assured **Psalm 23**

“The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

He makes us to lie down in green pastures; He leads us beside the still waters.

He restores our souls; He leads us in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Yea, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil; For You are with us; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort us.

You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies; You anoint our heads with oil; Our cups run over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us All the days of our lives; And we will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.”

F. **2 Corinthians 5:1** – “We know that if this earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God.”

G. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**