

1 Peter 1:6-7; 17-21

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.

¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. God gave the life of His Son, His only Son Whom He loved. Who was this one He gave?

²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times

²¹ for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

“Precious”

1 Peter 1:6-7; 17-21

INTRO:

When we use the word precious, we may think of “precious stones.” We might even think of something as important as our children or our mates. The Apostle Peter used the word precious a lot in his letters. I thought it might be helpful for us to explore what the word precious means in the New Testament and in Peter epistles.

I. What does the Word “precious” mean?

II. What is precious to God and to us?

I. What does the Word “precious” mean?

A. One of the key words in Peter’s epistles is the word **“precious.”** For example, in **1 Peter 1:6-7** we read:

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, in order 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.”

Another example is **1 Peter 1:18-19**,

“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

B. The Greek word translated **“precious”** is an adverb that means **“to be valued as very costly”** or **“to be held in high honor.”** The difference in meaning is determined by the context. The word is part of a word group centered on the noun which means to honor, or have a great price or great value.

C. We will take a little trip seeking to understand what is precious to God and why we need to see these things as precious to us.

II. What is precious to God and to us?

A. We will finish in Peter’s epistles, but let us begin in **James 5:7** where the Apostle James teaches us how to approach the ministry by giving us an illustration.

“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.”

In this context, James exhorts us to be patient in waiting for the Lord to make all things right. The illustration is how farmers work now very hard knowing that the highly valued produce will come to them from the Lord.

B. Our second stop will be at **Acts 20:24**.

“But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

The word translated **“dear”** is a word from the root of the word which means **valuable** or **precious**. Paul was convinced accomplishing God’s will was more important than sparing his own life.

C. Now we have a sense of how this word group is used, let us consider two texts in **1 Peter**. First, we find this word in **1 Peter 1:6-7**;

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 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.”

This is about something all of us experience one way or another. What happens when trials come?

1. First, spiritual realities become more precious than physical ones. We recognize as stuff happens to us physically that this life will soon be past and we begin to think about our ***“living hope”*** reserved in heaven for us and ***“our being kept by God in faith”*** for that reality.

2. Second, we realize beside our faith being strengthened by our tests, the testing and proving of the genuineness of our faith pays eternal benefits. It is extremely valuable to God and to us. Both the Lord and we receive benefit from this faith.

3. **1 Peter 1:6-9** ***“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials so 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, Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”***

D. The second reference in which Peter refers to something being precious is to the blood of our Savior.

1 Peter 1:17-19 ***“And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”***

1. Redemption was a concept that was well known in the culture in Peter’s day. It pervades the Old Testament and in the day of Peter in a Roman culture in which the majority were, slaves the people understood the concept of redemption. For the Jewish person they would remember how the first born had to be bought at a price. He belonged to God. They were not their own. They had to be bought back by paying a redemption price.

2. The living God Himself redeemed us. What was the price to redeem us? The price was something that is so valuable so full of worth it is ***“priceless.”*** God

gave the life of His Son, His only Son Whom He loved. Who was this one He gave?

1 Peter 1:20-21 *“He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”*

What Is Valuable To Us?

What is precious to God should be valuable to us. If we put value on something God does not value, we do not treat the blood by which we are redeemed as precious.

Hymn *He Is So Precious to Me*