

Christ is Precious - Part 1
Sermon delivered on January 17th, 2016

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

Scripture Text: [1 Peter 2:1-10](#)

Introduction

There are many precious things in life - children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, husbands, wives, friends, life, health, water, air and time. There are also many things that may be precious to you that has absolutely no value whatsoever to somebody else. There are things in your wallet, jewelry box, house, heart, mind that you treasure, that may mean absolutely nothing to somebody else.

That's how it is in life. What one person would throw away another person would say, I got to have that. That's what garage sale is. One man's trash is another man's treasure.

That's the way also in spiritual realm. There are people who say, I must have Christ. I cannot live without Him. I need Him more than anything else in this world. Then there are others who would say, I don't need Him. I don't even know if He is real much less a Saviour. To some people Christ is absolutely necessary but to others He means absolutely nothing. To babies, gold means absolutely nothing. To the pigs or swine, pearls are valueless. And, sad, sad, to many, Jesus Christ and His precious blood means absolutely nothing.

[Hebrews 10:29](#) Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, **who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**

But, this year I want to set forth the preciousness of Christ. I want us as a church and as individuals have year-long look at the preciousness of Christ.

What do I hope to see happen as we consider the preciousness of Christ?

My prayer and earnest desire as I deliver this series of sermons on the preciousness of Christ, is to see men, women, boys and girls to fall in love with Jesus Christ. My prayer is that, there will be a spiritual awakening, **resulting in a deep love for Jesus Christ.**

Now, I cannot make anyone love the Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot talk anyone into loving Jesus Christ. It is like introducing a young man to a young lady, with the hope that the two will fall in love with each other. But you know very well that you cannot make them love each other. All you can do is to make the introduction and hopefully something will take place both in their hearts.

My prayer is that as I set forth before you, Jesus Christ and His preciousness, you will fall in love with Jesus Christ. I am praying that, as you and I see the preciousness of Christ, we could not help but love Him and that we will demonstrate that love by obedience to His words and by living holy lives.

Would you pray with me? Pray with me that as we contemplate on this great subject, it would result first of all, in harvest of souls and then greater love and devotion to Christ and His Kingdom.

I am expecting great things for God this year. I am praying that Christ will become really precious to each and every ones heart. I believe that that would take place if I set forth the preciousness of Christ.

I like what Spurgeon said to his congregation, "*Ask nothing for me, but ask large things for my Lord, for the Crucified One!*"

I - How Precious is Jesus?

Peter loved to use the word, "precious". He used the word precious numerous times in his epistle.

1 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:

1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the **precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

2 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:

2 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.

Here in our text, he once again used the word to describe our LORD...

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,

According to Peter, Jesus Christ is precious, that is, of great price, of great worth, very dear, highly esteemed.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

He is God's unspeakable gift, the indescribable gift to us. Christ is priceless gift. Christ is precious.

How precious is Jesus Christ?

As the late S.M. Lockeridge said ...

I wish I could describe Him to you.

He's indescribable! He's incomprehensible. He's invincible. He's irresistible. You cannot get Him out of your mind. You cannot get Him off of your hand. You cannot outlive Him, and you cannot live without Him. The Pharisees could not stand Him, but they found out they could not stop Him. Pilate could not find any fault in Him. Herod could not kill Him. Death could not handle Him, and the grave could not hold Him.

Yes! That's my King, that's my King.

Let me attempt to give you a glimpse of how precious Jesus Christ is.

He is the One Altogether Lovely. (Song of Solomon 5:16)

He is the Chief Cornerstone. (1 Peter 2:6)

He is the Sun of Righteousness. (Malachi 4:2)

He is the Sure Foundation. (Isaiah 28:16)

He is a Great Physician. (Jeremiah 8:22)

He is the New and Living Way. (Hebrews 10:20)

He is the Sower and the Lord of the Harvest. (Luke 10:2)

He is the Hidden Treasure. (Matthew 13:44)

He is the Living Water. (John 4:10; 7:38)

He the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

He is the Light of the World (John 8:12;9:5).

He is the Door (John 10:7).

He is the Good Shepherd (John 10: 11, 14).

He is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25).

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6).

He is the True Vine"(John 15:1)

He is the Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. (Proverb 18:24)

He is the One who will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

He is the Wonderful and Great Saviour. (Luke 2:11; John 4:42; 1 John 4:14; Isaiah 43:11)

He is ...

The First and the Last.

The Beginning and the End.

He is the Keeper of Creation and the Creator of All.

He is the Architect of the Universe and the Manager of All Time.

He Always Was, He Always Is, and He Always Will Be Unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and Never Undone.

He was bruised and brought healing.

He was pierced and eased pain.

He was persecuted and brought freedom.

He was dead and brought life.

He is risen and brings power.

He reigns and brings peace.

The world cannot understand Him.

The armies cannot defeat Him.

Schools cannot explain Him and the leaders can't ignore Him.

Herod could not kill Him.

The Pharisees could not confuse Him.

The people could not hold him.

Nero could not crush Him.

Hitler could not silence Him.

The New Age cannot replace Him.

And Oprah cannot explain Him away.

He is Life, Love, Longevity, and Lord.

He is Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness and God.

He is Holy, Righteous, Mighty, Powerful, and Pure.

His Ways our Right, His Words Eternal, His Rules Unchanging, and His Mind is on me.

He is My Redeemer, He is My Saviour, He is My God, He is My Priest, He is My Joy, He is My Comfort, He is My Lord, and He rules my life.

I love what J. C. Ryle said about Jesus Christ ...

“We can never make too much of Christ. Our thoughts about the Church, the ministry, and the ordinances, may easily become too high and exaggerated or excessive. But we can never have too high thoughts about Christ, we can never love Him too much, trust Him too implicitly, lay too much weight upon Him, and speak too highly in His praise. He is worthy of all the honor that we can give Him. He will be all in heaven. Let us see to it, that He is all in our hearts on earth.”

[Revelation 5:12](#) Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

I could go on and on and talk about the preciousness of Christ and why He is precious, but time would not let me, I will do that in the coming weeks. But now the question is ...

II - To whom is Christ Precious?

This world is filled with people who despise Christ. The religious leaders in Jesus' time - the scribes, the priests, the Pharisees rejected Him with contempt and derision.

[1 Peter 2:4](#) To whom coming, as unto a living stone, **disallowed indeed of men**, but chosen of God, and precious, [5:](#) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood,

to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6: 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, 8: And **a stone of stumbling**, and **a rock of offence**, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9: But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 10: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

He is the Stone that men and builders disallowed, a stone of stumbling, a rock of offense. They rejected Him because they could not see excellence in Him that they should build upon Him. Though He is Lord of all, they cast Him away and reckoned Him to be as nothing. [John 1:10](#) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. [11:](#) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Even today, there are multitudes who do not see Christ as precious.

They may believe Him to be a great teacher, a great prophet, a great example, a very noble martyr. They may even believe His claims to be the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, but to them the Lord Jesus Christ simply is not precious. He is not dear to them. They do not esteem Him very highly. They have no love for Him, they do not see that Christ is indeed wonderful. In fact, they hate Him and they want to get rid of Him and anything that would remind them of Christ.

But thank God, not all people do! There are those who esteem Christ as precious. There are people who can say and mean it when they say, *He is altogether lovely*. They can honestly say, *take the world but give me Jesus*. They can honestly testify, *none but Christ can satisfy*. They can joyfully sing, *all that thrills my soul is Jesus*. And who are these people? Who are those who experience the preciousness of Christ?

1. Christ is precious to the Believers

[7: Unto you therefore which believe he is precious ...](#)

It is to the believer, and to the believer alone, that Christ is precious. It is the believer who esteems Him higher than any other thing or person in this world and life. They highly esteem, cherish, treasure, value, prize, honor, respect, reverence Jesus Christ.

While the Lord Jesus is rejected by the great mass of people, He is regarded by all true Christians as of great worth and value. **Why?** They have been brought into a condition where they can appreciate His worth. That is what a true believer is, that is what true Christian is. A believer, a Christian is someone who by the Spirit of God have been brought to place where they see their need, their guilt, their helplessness, their hopelessness. They have come to realization that they

do not have righteousness of their own and they are not able atone for their sins. Therefore, Jesus Christ, His blood and righteousness are most precious to them.

*To see the **value of food**, we must be hungry; **value of clothing**, we must be exposed to the winter's blast; **value of home**, we must be wanderers without a dwelling-place; **value of medicine**, we must be sick; **value of competence**, we must be poor. So, to see the **value of the Saviour**, we must see that we are poor, helpless, dying sinners; that the soul is of inestimable worth; that we have no merit of our own; and that unless someone interpose, we must perish. Everyone who becomes a true Christian is brought to this condition; and in this state he can appreciate the worth of the Saviour. In this respect the condition of Christians is unlike that of the rest of mankind - for they are in no better state to appreciate the worth of the Saviour, than the man in health is to appreciate the value of the healing art, or than he who has never had a want unsupplied, the kindness of one who comes to us with an abundant supply of food. - Albert Barnes*

Thomas Watson — "Until sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet."

2. Christ is precious to the Father

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and **precious**, 5: Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6: 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.

Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

This is one of the reasons why Christ is precious to believers because Christ is precious to the Father. Christ is infinitely precious to His Father, who knows Him best, and who is a perfect judge of real excellency; and for that very reason He is precious to you that believe. What is precious to God, it is also precious to us believers.

Men wickedly reject this stone, and even many of the professed builders of his church reject him. But to the Father, He is the Living Stone, the Tried Stone, Elect, Precious, which God Himself appointed from of old.

God the Father esteemed Him highly

Hear what the Father says about Christ:

At Christ's Baptism

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

At Christ's Transfiguration

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

This is my beloved Son in whom I am pleased. This is my beloved Son, He is precious to me. You must listen to Him I value Him very vey highly. Christ is infinitely precious to the Father.

After Christ's Exaltation

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 1:0 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11: And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In raising Him from the dead the Lord God exalted Jesus Christ above all. What a delight to contemplate on this subject!

Closing Thoughts

Is Christ precious to you?

You cannot love Him until you believe Him. He will not be precious to you until you trust Him, until you possess or have Him.

A red diamond may be precious in itself; but I cannot say that it is precious to me; because I don't have one. But if I own a diamond, when a thing belongs to you, it has a value to you, it is precious to you. Now, no man possesses Christ except he believes in Him. Though Christ is priceless gift, He is of no value to you if you do not trust Him. You are without Christ if you are without faith.

Are you a believer?

Do you want to know if you are a true believer? Do you want to know if you possess the faith that saves?

Our text answers this question.

7: Unto you therefore which believe he is precious:

This is not a command but a statement of fact. A person's view of Christ reveals ones spiritual state and it does not lie. A person's esteem of Christ is an evidence that a person possesses the faith that saves.

To the unbelievers among us ...

Come to Christ! You don't know how much is in store for you who would believe...

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10: But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

To the believers among us ...

Is Christ becoming more and more precious to you? Are you showing that by your obedience, your service, your soul winning, your love for the brethren?

May God awaken us to how precious Christ is, and cause us to a greater love for Him.

Amen!