

## THINGS MOST PRECIOUS

### I. The trial of your faith (1 Peter 1:7).

- A. If you are like me, you wonder why trials are called precious.
- B. Trials are precious, because when passed through successfully, they lead to the approbation of Jesus at His return.
- C. Notice the last phrase of the verse.
  - 1. Trials strengthen us (James 1:2-3).
  - 2. We will have Jesus' approval if we make it through our trials.
- D. A key concept Christians need to grasp is the that we will have trials in this life.
  - 1. 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4.
  - 2. 2 Timothy 3:12.
- E. It is sad to hear Christians wonder aloud why they have to suffer.
  - 1. It is hard to view trials as precious but that is the world in us still talking.
  - 2. Trials are valuable for gaining the patience we need to make it to heaven (Luke 21:19).
- F. Suffering now strengthens us for the trials that lay ahead.
  - 1. The word trials, according to Woods, suggests the idea of being tested for character or worthiness.
  - 2. Much like an assayer tests gold to determine its quality, trials of life test the quality of the Christian.
  - 3. Trials bring our weak spots to our attention and allow us to become stronger if we use them properly.
- G. We are not above our Lord (Matthew 10:24).
  - 1. Jesus suffered greatly and left us His example (1 Peter 2:21).
  - 2. The suffering of Jesus perfected Him (Hebrews 5:8-9).
  - 3. By going through those trials, Jesus could fulfill the qualifications of the High Priest (Hebrews 5:2).
  - 4. Jesus can be touched by our infirmities (Hebrews 4:15).
- H. Our goal ought to be completion (Matthew 5:48), and trials bring us toward that goal.

### II. The blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:19-20).

- A. The blood of Jesus frees us from contamination from sin.
  - 1. How valuable would a cure for cancer be, or one for AIDS, or some other incurable disease?
  - 2. There is only one cure for sin and it is the blood of the Great Physician (Revelation 1:5).
- B. It is valuable, or precious, because by it we are redeemed (Ephesians 1:7).
  - 1. You and I are not redeemed by perishable items (1 Peter 1:18).
  - 2. The blood of Jesus is the only thing that can buy our freedom from sin (Colossians 1:14).
- C. It is precious because it brings us to God (Ephesians 2:13).
  - 1. Those who are lost are just as the Gentiles to whom Paul wrote

- once were (Ephesians 2:12).
    - 2. There is nothing that can bring us to God but the blood.
  - D. It is precious because it purges our consciences (Hebrews 9:14).
    - 1. Guilt can ride hard on the tender conscience.
    - 2. So many people are suffering in depression and angst over a guilty conscience.
    - 3. They look for any way possible to remove the pain, but fail to look to the only cure for it, the blood of Jesus.
  - E. The blood of Jesus sanctifies those who come into contact with it (Hebrews 13:12).
    - 1. The blood of Jesus sets one apart from the world.
    - 2. The Corinthians, at one time, were vile sinners (1 Corinthians 6:9-10), but became saints through sanctification (vs. 11).
    - 3. This is only possible through the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:10).
  - F. For those in Christ, the blood of Jesus allows continued cleansing (1 John 1:7).
    - 1. The “eth” on cleanse indicates the tense of the word means continued action.
    - 2. The blood of Jesus keeps on cleansing us as we walk in the light.
    - 3. Every time we sin and are faithful to repent, God cleanses us of that sin with the blood of Jesus (1 John 1:9).
  - G. We might ask how the blood does all these things.
    - 1. The conscience is cleansed through baptism (1 Peter 3:21).
    - 2. Sin is washed away through baptism (Acts 22:16).
    - 3. We are sanctified in baptism (Ephesians 5:26).
  - H. All of these, and many other things, point to the fact tat baptism is the only way one can come into contact with the blood of Jesus.
    - 1. His blood was shed at His death (John 19:34).
    - 2. We take part in His death, burial and resurrection when we are baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-4).
    - 3. Only through baptism can one come into contact with the blood of Jesus.

### III. **A living Stone, a chief Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-7).**

- A. Jesus is called a chief Cornerstone or living Stone because He provides unification as such.
  - 1. At least two Old Testament passages prophesy the Messiah would be a rejected stone (Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22).
  - 2. Zechariah 10:4.
  - 3. All three of these passages are referenced or quoted in the New Testament and applied to Jesus (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17-18; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:4-7).
- B. The cornerstone is not as important in our architecture as it was in the Old Testament and time of Christ.
  - 1. In Old Testament times there were two types of stones used.
  - 2. One was the cornerstone at the bottom of a building called the foundation stone.

3. The other was known as the cap stone, which linked the last tier of the building together.
4. Both of these were used for the Messiah in the Old Testament.
  - a. Isaiah referred to the Messiah as a foundation stone (28:16).
  - b. The Psalmist referred to Him as the cap stone.
- C. Coffman, in his commentary on 1 Peter, listed several ways in which Jesus brings unity:
  1. The Old Law ended and the New began.
  2. The wicked find their doom and the righteous find safety.
  3. Old Israel was done away and New Israel began.
  4. God and humanity are united.
  5. Another to be added to that list is that Jew and Gentile are united (Ephesians 2:20).
- D. Sin causes separation from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
  1. Because of this we need to be reconciled to God.
  2. God gave Jesus to be that reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).
  3. Jesus provides salvation through His efforts for man's unity with God (Romans 5:10).
- E. Jesus is the foundation stone upon which the church is built (1 Corinthians 3:11).

#### **IV. Like precious faith (2 Peter 1:1).**

- A. This faith is valuable because it leads to salvation.
- B. Peter uses faith as a term for belief and acceptance of the gospel, the system of faith.
- C. The gospel is referred to by several names in the New Testament.
  1. The truth (John 17:17).
  2. Gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24).
  3. The faith is another such designation (Acts 6:7; Romans 1:5).
- D. Those to whom Peter wrote had heard the faith preached to them and they were obedient to its message.
  1. It is a simple message dealing with the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
  2. This is what was preached on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:23-36).
  3. This is what the Pentecostians believed and obeyed (Acts 2:38-41).
- E. This is the message we are to obey in order to obtain the gift of salvation.
  1. Reception of this message is necessary for sanctification (John 17:17).
  2. It is necessary for salvation (1 Corinthians 15:1-2).
  3. It is necessary for justification (Galatians 2:16).
- F. Truly, this faith leads to salvation.

#### **V. Exceeding great and precious promises (2 Peter 1:4).**

- A. These promises are so valuable because they provide consolation in times of trouble.
  1. Peter's audience was facing troublesome times.
  2. Thinking about the great promises of God could and would bring them great consolation.

- B. The wonderful thing about these promises are that they come from One who cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
  - 1. The Old Testament was given for our learning (Romans 15:4).
  - 2. One thing we should learn from it is that God keeps His promises.
    - a. God promised Eve that one would come who would bruise Satan's head and He fulfilled that promise (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4).
    - b. God promised Abraham a son and He fulfilled that promise (Genesis 17:16; 21:1-2).
    - c. God promised David that the Messiah would come through his seed and He fulfilled that promise (2 Samuel 7:12ff; Matthew 1:6).
  - 3. These are but a few of the promised God made in the Old Testament and is shown to have kept.
- C. God has promised salvation to all that obey Him (John 3:16).
- D. Why stay faithful in a time of trouble?
  - 1. We will have eternal life if we do so.
  - 2. We know this because the God that made the promise cannot lie.
- E. Why not be swallowed up with worry?
  - 1. Because God told us that we should cast our cares on Him because He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).
  - 2. We know He will take care of us because He promised He would (Matthew 6:33).
- F. Why should I forgive those that wrong me and seek my forgiveness?
  - 1. Because God will only forgive those that forgive others (Matthew 6:14-15).
  - 2. We know He will forgive because He promised He would.
- G. God had given us some exceedingly wonderful promises.
- H. Jesus promised that He is going to prepare a place for His followers and that He would one day come back for them (John 14:1-3).
- I. What great consolation that should bring to us in time of trouble.