

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

INTRODUCTION

- I. Gold is the world's most commonly known precious metal.
 - A. Gold was used in beautifying Solomon's temple in the Old Testament.
 - B. Many things are shown to be of great value by comparing them with gold.
 1. Some ladies' jewelry is made of products that **looks** like gold, to give the impression of gold.
 2. The value of money is largely determined by a comparison with gold.
- II. However, there ARE a few things the Bible declares to be "more precious than gold."

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, GOD'S WORD is more precious than gold.

- A. God's word is precious because of **it's value**. Psa. 19:7-11; 119:12-13
 1. God's word has value in helping us recognize the *presence of sin*. Rom. 7:9-13
 2. God's word has value in leading the lost to *salvation*. 2 Tim. 3:15
 3. God's word has value in giving directions in *Christians living*. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- B. God's word is precious because of **It's author**. 2 Tim. 3:16
 1. God in His wisdom revealed His mind to selected inspired writers from different ages and from different parts of the world, and then in His providence brought their writings together in one book we call the BIBLE.
 2. Authors in the world come and go, but the word of the Lord is indestructible, and multitudes have failed in their efforts to destroy the Bible as it continues to be the world's best seller. 1 Pet.1:23-25
- C. God's word is precious because of **it's rarity**. 1 Sam. 3:1
 1. Today, God's word is *rarely studied*.
 - a. God's word is food for the soul, but seldom desired. 1 Pet. 2:2; Matt. 5:6
 - b. Every Christian should not pillow his head at night without reading and meditating on God's word. Acts 17:11; Psa. 1:1-2
 2. Today, God's word is *rarely obeyed*. Matt. 7:21; 13-14; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14

II. 2nd, the TRIAL OF FAITH of believers is more precious than gold.

- A. The **basis** of faith is God's word. Rom. 10:17
 1. We have already established the fact that God's WORD is precious.
 2. So, that which the word produces is ALSO precious, as a **fruit** of the tree of gold. Prov. 8:10, 19; 2 Pet. 1:3
 3. Also, God's word contains "precious promises" of something better than the physical things of life. 2 Pet. 1:2-3
- B. Then, we learn that the TRYING or testing of faith is more precious than gold, for it deals with the soul of each individual, that relates to eternity. 1 Pet. 1:7
 1. The testing of gold helps the assayer to determine it's value.
 2. just so, the testing of our faith reveals how strong our faith really is, and helps us to develop Christian character. Jas. 1:1-2; Psa. 119:71-72
 - a. Faith in God is precious in the time of sickness, surgery, tragedy, or even death.
 - b. DEATH-BED OF VOLTAIRE. A study of the French philosopher Voltaire of the 18th century is interesting indeed. Voltaire spent much of his life opposing the false religions of

the day, and attributing them to God, whom he denied. Near the end of his life, he was said to have been told to renounce the devil, to which he replied, *"This is no time to make enemies."* Near the end of his life, he called for his personal physician and offered him half of his wealth if he could help him live 6 months longer. His physician told him that this would not be possible, for he would not and could not live another 6 weeks. Voltaire responded by saying, *"i will go to hell and you will go with me."* Once it is said that he was caught trying to pray, after having fallen from his bed in convulsions, foaming at the mouth while lying on the floor, saying, *"Will not the God whom I have denied, save me too? Cannot infinite mercy be extended to me?"* His nurse ran from the death scene, crying out that he would not see another infidel die for the whole of Europe.

3. Certainly, the testing of faith brings great reward. Jas. 1:12

III. 3Rd, OUR REDEMPTION is more precious than gold.

A. The price of redemption (the blood of Jesus) is above material wealth. 1 Pet. 1:18-19

1. Life is forfeited by sin, but can be redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus. Heb. 9:22; Matt. 26:28
2. The millions of animals offered in sacrifice under the Old Testament era, merely foreshadowed the blood of the Son of God on the cross.; Heb. 10:1-4; Eph. 1:7

B. The soul of man that has been redeemed is more precious than gold, and all the gold in the world cannot redeem a single soul. Matt. 16:26

conclusion

I. So, we see 3 things that are more precious than gold: (1) The word of God; (2) The trying of our faith; and (3) Redemption of the soul.

A. Many souls are lost for eternity because of the search for and obtaining of gold.

1. Undoubtedly, souls of men who spent their lives searching for riches will cry for mercy in an endless eternity.
2. A houseful of gold is worth less than your soul.

B. We need to be like Balaam was when he **first** was begged to curse Israel, when he said, *"Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more"*(Num. 22:18), though later he could not resist the enticement, and lost favor with God for his greed.

1. All the gold in the world will not give a wealthy man any advantage over a poor beggar of the street in the day of judgment.
2. None can buy their way into heaven with gold and silver.

II. If there is one here who is willing and ready to give up gold or anything else to become a Christian, and be saved, and live in view of eternity, the opportunity is yours right now, as we stand together and sing.

DON TARBET