

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 28

2024

## Some Precious Things

The Scriptures speak of many things that are precious. When the word “precious” is used it indicates “something of great value, worth, or something that is treasured or costly.” So, with that thought in mind let’s take a look at some of the “precious things” which are mentioned in the Bible.

### **The Lovingkindness of God.**

In Psalm 36:7, David penned, *“How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!”* You see, the lovingkindness or mercy of God is of great value. Much more valuable than other things of value, simply because none of us are deserving of the lovingkindness of God.

### **The Death of Saints.**

I know that it is hard for many to image death as being something that is precious, but the truth is, the death of a saint is precious in the Lord’s sight, for as the inspired Psalmist of old wrote, *“Precious in the sight of the Lord Is the death of His saints”* (Psalm 116:15).

### **God’s Thoughts.**

In Psalm 139:17, David says, *“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great are the sum of them!”* Yes, indeed, God’s thoughts certainly are precious. For, the fact of the matter is, His thoughts can not compare to the thoughts of anyone else (Isaiah 55:8-9).

### **Wisdom.**

Another thing which the Bible describes as being precious is wisdom. In Proverbs 3:13-15, the wise man informed, *“Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding. For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.”*

### **The Lips of Knowledge.**

Just as wisdom is precious, so are the lips that utter knowledge. In Proverbs 20:15, we read, *“There is gold and a multitude of rubies, But the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.”*

### **The Genuineness of Faith.**

Did you know that the trial of faith is precious? You see, in 1 Peter 1:7, we learn that the genuineness or the trial of faith is much more precious than gold that perishes. So, when you are grieved by various trials, remember those inspired words of the apostle Peter.

### **The Blood of Christ.**

How are we redeemed? Well, we are not redeemed by corruptible things like silver or gold, but rather we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19). Now, the question is, have you been washed in the blood of Christ and been redeemed?

### **A Gentle and Quiet Spirit.**

A gentle and quiet spirit denotes one who is calm tempered, content, free from passion, pride, envy, and irritability. So, strive to have a gentle and quiet spirit, for as the apostle Peter informed, it is very precious in the sight of God (1 Peter 3:4).

### **Like Faith.**

Faith comes by the hearing of God’s word (Romans 10:17) and it is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). You see, as Christians, we have obtained a like faith, and we are united together in our faith, and the apostle Peter tells us that this kind of faith is precious (2 Peter 1:1).

### **The Exceedingly Great Promises of God.**

Also, the Bible speaks of the precious promises of God (2 Peter 1:4). You see, it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). Therefore, when God makes a promise He will keep it, and one of those great and precious promises is that of eternal life (Titus 1:2). However, there is a condition to this promise, and only those who are obedient to God will obtain it (Matthew 7:21).

These are just a few of the “precious things” that are mentioned in the Bible. Now, I ask, how precious are they to you?

✍️ Brad Phillips

## Should We Be “Tolerant?”

Many people have the opinion that we all should be “tolerant” of the religious views of everyone else. In fact, about the only thing that receives much criticism these days is the ‘intolerance” of some of us who argue against certain religious beliefs. We’re frequently viewed as being “fanatics,” and mean-spirited “bigots.” They tell us to be less judgmental and learn to accept all forms of religious expression as being equally good and beneficial.

All of this stems from an apparent failure to distinguish between different forms of “tolerance.” There are at least three kinds:

- Legal tolerance: This is the recognition that everyone has a legal right to believe and practice whatever he or she feels is best and right.
- Social tolerance: This is the notion that everyone ought to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their particular religious convictions.
- Uncritical tolerance: The idea that no one ought to ever make a judgment relative to what others believe religiously. It suggests that it is not possible to determine what is right or true, and that all religious beliefs and practices are equally good.

We agree that all Christians are obligated by the Word of God to honor the first two forms of “tolerance.” We would fiercely defend the legal right of every person to make their own decisions in matters of religion. Furthermore, we understand that the Lord has taught us to treat everyone with honor and dignity (1 Peter 2:17). To do otherwise would put us in direct violation of His will.

It is the idea of “uncritical tolerance” that is not found in the Scriptures. Instead, we are commanded to compare what people teach and believe with what the Bible says (1 John 4:1,2; Galatians 1:8,9; Matthew 7:15-20). We are to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3). In this regard, there is no room for tolerance -- we must be faithful to God and His Word (2 John 9-11).

✍️ Greg Gwin

## God’s Plan of Salvation

**Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)**

**Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)**

**Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)**

**Confess Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)**

**Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)**

**Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16).*

### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

Website: [www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

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