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*"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"*

### CHRIST PRECIOUS TO BELIEVERS

By DR. C. D. COLE

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious." I Peter 2:7.

Peter seems to have had a liking for that word "precious." It is the word by which he describes his list of valuables. And here are his valuables: Christ, Christ's blood, God's promises, our faith, and the trial to which our faith is subjected. To the man of the world that is a strange list of valuables.

A man's list of valuables is the thing that reveals his character to men of the world. Valuables consist in stocks and bonds and deeds and jewels. For these valuables they have safety deposit boxes for their safe-keeping. Believers need a strong box in their mind in which to treasure the valuables Peter delights to talk about.

Our text speaks of a valuable person, so valuable as to be called precious. But He is not precious to everybody. He is precious only to believers--to those who feel their need of him.

And who have committed their eternal salvation into His hands.

Confusion of values belongs to many men:

I. The individual who has never trusted Christ as Saviour shows that he has a poor estimate of values. He who rejects Christ and hopes to escape the punishment of his sins thru some other person or object is wrong in his estimate of values.

II. The nation Israel misjudged Him when He came. They saw no beauty in Him that they should admire and trust Him. Think of a nation schooled in the true religion, with a Bible predicting the coming of a Saviour, and describing the character and work of that Saviour, when that Saviour appeared did not receive Him. When they had to choose between Jesus and Barabas, a robber and murderer, they chose Barabas, and cried against Jesus.

III. A nation can be judged by its heroes. Judging America in this way will not reveal much hope, for our heroes are men of sports. Jesus should be our hero.

An object may be said to be precious for many reasons, and Christ is precious for every reason that an object may be said to be precious;

I. A thing may be said to be precious because of its

intrinsic and material value. A diamond is precious because it is valuable. It represents much money. It will provide many benefits. Now for the same reason Christ is precious. He purchased heaven and eternal glory for His people. He redeemed them from the curse of the law.

II. A thing may be said to be precious for its rarity. There are some metals that are very rare, they are hard to find, and for this reason they are expensive. Now for this reason Christ is precious. There are not many Saviours, but only one. No other name. Not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without spot. Christ stands alone in character and work. Nobody else like Him and nobody else can do His saving work.

III. Christ is precious in His person. He is the sum of all excellencies; the image of the invisible God. It will be heaven just to behold His glorious person. "Just to be near the dear Lord I adore will thru the ages be glory for me." That they may behold my glory. What a change will have been wrought in sinful men saved by grace,

when to admire the glory of Christ will satisfy them. We have some faint illustrations of the way we will feel when we behold His glory.

A. The feeling the mother has when she sees her son admired and praised and honored by men. The mother of Lincoln and Washington and other notable men have had all the earthly glory they desired in seeing their sons honored.

B. The pride of feeling that a school has in the victories of its football team.

IV. Christ is precious in His offices. His mediatorial office is generally divided into three parts: Prophet, priest, and king.

A. Precious as a prophet. How blessed are His words. Peter confessed that he had the words of eternal life. What a comforter Jesus was to all who came to Him. He never said the wrong word as we do.

B. Precious as a high priest. The only high priest. As a priest he represented us before an offended majesty. He made atonement for sin by the sacrifice He made on the cross. As priest he now intercedes for us in heaven.

C. Precious as a king. His people delight to own Him as Lord. At his second coming he will enter more fully upon His kingly office. He will be King of kings and Lord of lords. He will be King of nations. Many contrasts between His first and second coming. At his first coming he was a babe; in the second He will be the ancient of days. He came the first time as sin-bearer; He will come the second time as sin-punisher. He is our Saviour; He is our Judge. He was judged by men; He will judge all men.

Is Christ precious to you? If not, why not? There are many reasons why he should be.

"Thou art careful and troubled about many things." Luke 10:41b.

I do not know what had gone wrong in the kitchen, but it was "one of those days." Not a drab, uneventful day--plenty happens on these distracting days, when we seem to have got out on the wrong side of the bed. All day long we are vexed and pestered by the mosquitoes of petty care. Everything seems to have determined to be perverse. Tempers flare, nerves are strained, we "feel like we could scream."

Some people can stand big troubles better than this variety. They rise to the crash and disaster, but the wear and tear of petty distractions overcomes them. And yet perhaps it is a greater victory to overcome these little aggravations than to face nobly a gigantic trail.

There is grace for these days too. We may be kept in perfect peace if our minds are stayed on Him. These dwarfish demons can do our testimony more harm than the onslaught of an oversized devil. The breakfast table may call for more grace than the Lord's table on Sunday morning. Instead of depending on two cups of coffee making you fit to live with, get a good start at the feet of the Lord of "all the days."

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul?...hope in God." Psalm 43:5a.

There is never a time when we may not hope in God. Whatever our necessities, however great our difficulties, and though to all appearance help is impossible, yet our business is to hope in God, and it will be found that it is not in vain. In the Lord's own time help will come.

When it seems impossible that help could come, help will come; for God has His own resources. He is not confined. In ten thousand different ways, and at ten thousand different times. God may help us. Our business is to spread our cases before the Lord, in childlike simplicity to pour out all our heart before God, saying, "I do not deserve that Thou shouldst hear me and answer my request, but for the sake of my precious Lord Jesus, for His sake answer my prayer, and give me grace quietly to wait till it please Thee to answer my prayer. For I believe Thou wilt do it in thine own time and way."

More prayer, more exercise of faith, more patient waiting, and the result will be blessing, abundant blessing.

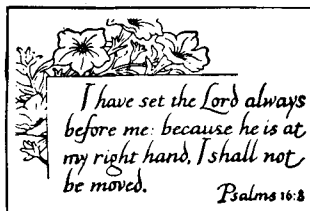
Death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity. -Milton.

#### WHAT OF TOMORROW?

I do not know what still awaits,  
Or what the morrow brings;  
But with the glad salute of faith,  
I hail its opening wings!

For this I know--that in my Lord  
Shall all my needs be met;  
And I can trust the heart of him  
Who has not failed me yet.

--Author unknown



# THE CHRISTIAN HOPE

C. D. Cole

As preached in Titusville, Florida on October 19, 1930.

"For we are saved by hope. But hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" Romans 8:24.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

See also; Romans 5:2; Colossians 1:5; I Peter 1:3; 1:13; I Peter 1:21; 3:15; and Hebrews 6:19.

The word "hope" is used in a very careless way in much of our modern speech; but, in the Bible the word is used with great care, and accuracy. Some use the word simply to express an uncertainty or doubt. Let us remember that the word is always used in the Bible in respect to the future. We do not hope for some thing we already have. The things hoped for must be waited for. But a mere wish about the future is not the believer's hope. Get this definition: "Hope is a well-founded expectation for future good." Any wish or expectation that is not well-founded is not hope. Hope is that grace of the soul that looks forward to the fulfillment of the exceeding great and precious promises of our God. God makes a promise, faith appropriates it, hope begins to look forward to the fulfillment of it, and patience waits for it. The Christian's hope is a bright star upon a very dark background; it is a blessed sequel to a tragic story of sin and ruin. "Now abideth faith, hope and love." Let us analyze our

hope and in so doing, like the precious metals, it will become brighter for the using.

I. The object of our hope is the glory of God. Man was originally created in the likeness and image of God; but, through the fall, this image was terribly marred. Through the riches of grace, the believer hopes that he will some day again reflect God's glory in his very person. He has the well-founded expectation of one day being conformed to the likeness of Christ. Believers are not yet what they hope to be. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." I John 3:2.

Nowhere is pure Christianity seen to be a distinct system of religion than in the object of the hope of its followers. The romanist's best hope is that when he dies he will come out alright in the end, but that meanwhile he must undergo the purging fires of purgatory. We do not know much about that place, for the Bible makes no mention of it, but those who invented it and who claim to have the keys to it, tell us it is a dreary, dismal region where even great Cardinals and Bishops must go. There is nothing in a hope like that to cause rejoicing. The hope of the infidel is that when he dies he will be like a cat or a dog, and be done for. I would be ashamed of a hope like that.

II. The ground of the believer's hope is the death of Christ. "My hope is built

on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness." "My only plea Christ died for me." Can you give a reason for the hope that is in you? What are you basing your hope for heaven upon? If upon anything but the death of Christ, you will one day be ashamed of that hope. "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

III. The assurance of the believer's hope is the word of God. I know that I will receive the things hoped for because God's word assures me. The blood secures; the word assures.

IV. The consummation of our hope is the second coming of Christ. So much of our blessedness depends upon His return. "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." (Bonar and Spurgeon)

## THANK GOD FOR YOU

*Thank God for you, good friend of mine,  
Seldom is friendship such as thine;  
How very much I wish to be  
As helpful as you've been to me.  
Thank God for you.*

*When I recall from time to time  
How you inspired this heart of mine,  
I find myself inclined to pray,  
"God bless my friend this very day."  
Thank God for you.*

*Of many prayer requests, one thou art  
On whom I ask God to impart  
Rich blessings from his storehouse rare.  
And grant to you his gracious care.  
Thank God for you.*

*So often at the throne of grace,  
There comes a picture of your face,  
And then instinctively I pray  
That God may guide you all the way.  
Thank God for you.*

*Some day I hope with you to stand  
Before the throne at God's right hand,  
And say to you at journey's end,  
You've been to me a faithful friend.  
Thank God for you.*

--Author unknown