

THINGS PRECIOUS TO CHRISTIANS

Marvin L. Weir

God's love is precious to Christians! Without God's love, there would be no hope for fallen mankind. All accountable people sin (Rom. 3:10,23). The "*wages of sin is death*" (Rom. 6:23). When one sins, he is separated from God (Isa. 59:1-2). One cannot simply pardon himself from the sin he has committed. Without the love of God providing a plan for reconciliation and redemption, sinners would have no hope. To the Ephesian brethren Paul said, "*That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ*" (Eph. 2:12-13).

That passage often referred to as the golden text says, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). Think about that little word "so." God SO loved that He purposed, planned, and provided a way by which man can be forgiven of his sins and reconciled to God. Man would be hopelessly lost were it not for the love of God!

God's Word is precious to the Christian! Spiritually speaking, man is not capable of directing his steps: "*the way of man is not in himself*" (Jer. 10:23). A trustworthy guide is needed. One's emotions, feelings and opinions do not measure up to the challenge. The Psalmist knew the answer and was right in saying, "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path*" (Psa. 119:105). The Word of God is "*right,*" "*pure,*" "*true.*" It is "*settled in heaven*" (Psa. 33:4; 119:140,160,89).

God's complete will for mankind is revealed **only** through His inspired Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17). "*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God*" (1 Cor. 1:18). Paul reminds us that "*...faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*" (Rom. 10:17). For one to be saved, he must "*hold fast*" to God's Word (1 Cor. 15:2). Only the "*word of his grace*" can build us up and give us "*an inheritance among all them that are sanctified*" (Acts 20:32). The "*seed*" to be sown before a lost and dying world is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). God's Word "*liveth and abideth forever*" (1 Peter 1:23,25) and will judge all mankind in the last day (John 12:48). Put your trust in "*the sword of the Spirit,*" the word of God (Eph. 6:17).

Heaven is precious to the Christian! There are only two roads one can travel through life: one leads to eternal life and the other to eternal ruin (Matt. 7:13-14). Hell is to be avoided at all costs (Matt. 10:34-38). It has been "*prepared for the devil and his angels*" (Matt. 25:41) and for those

who “*know not God*” and “*obey not the gospel*” (2 Thess. 1:8). What a joy it will be for the faithful to get to Heaven, as God will “...*wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away*” (Rev. 21:4). All of those “*written in the Lamb’s book of life*” shall be in heaven; but, those who “*maketh an abomination and a lie*” shall never enter this precious place (Rev. 21:27).

Grace and mercy are precious to the Christian! The apostle Paul says it best, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*” (Eph. 2:8- 9). Salvation is God’s wonderful gift, but salvation is not unconditional. God’s wonderful grace covers **only** those who love Him and submit to His will. As Jesus said, “...*If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him*” (John 14:23). One cannot **continue** in a life of sin and expect God’s grace to abound (Rom. 6:1).

Salvation is precious to the Christian! Paul describes it like this: “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*” (2 Tim. 4:7-8, *emph. mine*).

Fellowship is precious to the Christian! How wonderful it is to associate with those of “*like precious faith*” (2 Peter 1:1)! We dare not, however, fellowship those walking in darkness (Eph. 5:11). To aid, support in any way, participate with, or encourage those who are enemies of the cross is wrong.

Let us be thankful for the fellowship that is ours in Christ Jesus. How wonderful it is to be in the company of those who love God! Never forget the many things precious to the Christian! (seekingtheoldpaths.com)

QUESTION: Is it sinful to be cremated?

ANSWER: There is nothing in the Bible that teaches that cremation is wrong or sinful. Clearly, after death we will return to dust (Genesis 3:19). Whether we return to dust under normal conditions or through the chosen accelerated process of cremation matters not at all. Many have not chosen to be cremated, but have been nonetheless consumed by fire! Some have died at sea and been devoured by fish and other creatures! Some have been devoured by wild land animals! No matter how our bodies are disposed of at death, God will reunite the elements that now make up our bodies with our spirits at the resurrection on the day of judgment (John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15; II Corinthians 5:1-4). (Dave Amos, tftw)

Braggs church of Christ Bulletin

January 31, 2021

Sick & Shut-in

Bennett, Norma
Brashear, Lana
Brashear, Logan
Bunch, Margaret
Cash, Joe
Cunningham, Jerry
Evans, Carla
Evans, Steve
Hall, Donna
Horn, Bobby
Isbell, Thomas
Moore, Jean
Moore, Roger
Mouse, Tyler
Nunez, Bob
Prichard, Barbara
Prichard, Bobby
Sturgeon, Wayne
Sullins, Ray

The following are suffering from Covid:

Dawn West
Sandra Gilliam
Kelly Gilliam
Bob Nunez
Colton Hardesty
Logan Brashear
Cheri Nunez

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.com
[Facebook.com@braggscc](https://www.facebook.com/braggscc)
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

Attendance

January average -
Attendance last Sunday - 33

Scripture Reading – Prov. 1:25-27

News & Notes

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021

February calendars are on the table in the back of the building.