

ABC's of SALVATION

by

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CHAPTER TEN

JEWELS

“Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him” (Malachi 3:16, 17).

A CAREFUL reading of the context from which this scripture is taken will show that the Holy Spirit, speaking through the prophet, refers primarily to the faithful remnant in Israel. That these words may be applied to the believers in any age is also true.

In Matthew 13:45, 46 the church is symbolized by **“the pearl of great price.”** A pearl is classed as a jewel; hence the church is a jewel in the sight of the Merchant Man who bought her at such awful price. Webster defines a jewel as **“an object regarded with special affection: a precious thing.”**

Let us note some of the reasons why the saints of God are called jewels.

I. The Preciousness of Jewels

Earthly jewels are valued by their scarcity which in turn fixes their price value. Some time ago a friend was visiting our home. He was showing us two rings, both of which he carried in a pocket. Not being a connoisseur of jewels, we were readily deceived in their respective values. The one that seemed most attractive to us cost but forty cents, while our friend had paid eleven hundred dollars for the other one. Immediately the first one lost most of its attractiveness to us. Why? It was because we had learned the value of the other one.

We tried to envision eleven hundred silver dollars or eleven hundred one-dollar bills placed beside the little stone in the second ring.

When God calls His people jewels, it is because of the enormous purchase price paid for them. It is written in I Peter 1:18, 19, **“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”**

II. How Jewels Are Obtained

Most jewels come from great depths either in the earth or in the sea. From the depths of the earth in the great Kimberly mines in South Africa, come the world's finest diamonds; from the depths of the sea come the finest pearls.

It is no accident that the church is referred to as "**the pearl of great price.**" Sea in Scripture imagery is used for the great mass of mankind. Out from this great dark, restless, surging mass of mankind, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Merchant Man, is gathering His pearl of great price.

These notes are being written in one of the largest cities in America. How humanity is surging! How restless it is! The church in which I am speaking is located beside a great moving picture theatre. Into this latter place the masses are rushing, trying to find something that will stimulate their already over-stimulated nervous system. Out of this sin-darkened, mad, striving mass, the Holy Spirit is calling a few jewels. Some have already testified that they are finding their joy in the Bible conference, while a few months ago it was the other building which held forth all the attractions to them.

It is written in Psalms 40:2, "**He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.**" At every service we look out over the audience and see just such people as the Psalmist described.

III. Jewels Are Imperishable

Almost everything is subject to decay. I recently read an article in a mechanical magazine concerning a certain bridge, one of the longest in the world. This article said the painters never ceased painting this bridge. They painted from one end to the other. When they finished at the far end, the first was ready for paint again, for rust and decay had begun to show. Men talk about the eternal hills, but rain, wind, and erosion do their devastating work. We were told in our old geology class that the Rocky Mountains are much "younger" than the Appalachians. The geologists arrived at this conclusion by the destructive effect of erosion seen upon the latter system.

Jewels, or at least certain ones, are considered among the less perishable of the things of earth. Be that as it may, of God's jewels, it is written in John 10:28, "**I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**"

IV. Jewels Are Carefully Guarded

In London the "Crown Jewels" are kept in a massive vault. The public is allowed to see them only through great iron bars, while armed guards are always present.

I read an article recently in which it was stated that it is now necessary to make the floors of vaults as impregnable as the sides, due to the fact that burglars are able to tunnel with exact precision to the bottom of a vault.

Vaults are now wired on every side with exactness, so that the moment a wire is touched an alarm is sounded.

God's jewels are more carefully guarded than any jewel on earth. The Apostle Paul could say in complete confidence, **"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"** (II Timothy 1:12).

V. Jewels Are Fashioned and Polished

Amsterdam was the great diamond finishing center of the world until overrun by the barbaric hordes of the Nazi. Thousands were employed there fashioning diamonds. A diamond is never beautiful when found. It must be split, shaped, and polished.

What is true of diamonds is certainly true of God's jewels.

- God took the idolater, Abraham, and made **"the father of nations"** out of him.
- He took the cursing Simon and made a **"stone"** in the temple of God.
- The militant Saul, who consented to the murder of Stephen, was transformed into the humble, obedient missionary.

But it took the fashioning hand of God in every case.

Some saints try to escape this splitting, grinding, polishing process. They follow the line of least resistance, but they never shine much for God.

VI. Purpose of Jewels

Earthly jewels are for the adornment of those who wear them.

It is written in Titus 2:10, **"Not purloining, but showing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."**

Again in I Peter 3:3, 4, **"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."**

Again in Revelation 21:2, **"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."**

In every one of these references the word adorn is *kosmeo* from which we get the word cosmetics. As people put on cosmetics to make themselves attractive (?), so should the saints of God adorn the doctrines of God to show forth the **"hidden man"** of the heart, and their betrothal to the Bridegroom in the heavens.

VII. Contrasts in Jewels

Of the great variety of jewels, there are many colors. The amethyst and the sapphire are blue; the emerald is green; the ruby is red; the diamond is clear. All are for adornment.

There are many members in the Body of Christ, but all should shine both Godward and manward. We are all stones in the temple of God, for it is written in I Peter 2:5, **“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”**

The context from which this is taken shows that the Lord Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone of this temple. A careful study of Ephesians 2:1-3 will show the awful depths from which we were taken to be put into this temple **“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus”** (Ephesians 2:7).

Beloved, if we are going to be God’s display of grace in **“the ages to come,”** may we be a display for Him now **“adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”**

When He cometh, when He cometh,
To make up His jewels;
All His jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own;
Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty,
Bright gems for His crown.

~ end of chapter 10 ~

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