

## Precious Word - cont.

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8:11-12). When we fail to appreciate and apply the word of God in our life, we will lose our precious faith (Psalm 139:17-18; Proverbs 3:15). When we follow the creeds, traditions, and philosophies of men, rather than God's word, we will lose our precious faith (Mark 7:13).

### A Precious Promise

Finally, God's word is precious because it tells of God's "precious and exceeding great promises" that he offers the faithful (2 Peter 1:4). The promises of forgiveness, answered prayer, a spiritual family, and ultimately, heaven itself.

What attacks this preciousness? When the world says things like, "Jesus does not save," "heaven is not real," "godly living is no big deal", or "the Bible is false," and you believe it, God's precious promises will be lost to you.

Today, God's word in the Bible is still precious. Like Samuel, may we always be open and receptive to that word: "Speak, for your servant hears". Unlike, Eli and his sons, may we never refuse the precious words of God that have already been given to mankind.

- Chris Reeves -

## Word of the Week

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- Abba -

"Abba" is an Aramaic word that means "my father". Christians can use this word in prayer to show their dependence upon God, their heavenly Father (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6). Let us all maintain a close relationship with our Father - to cry to him and rely upon him each and every day.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# The Precious Word of the Lord

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In 1 Samuel 3, we read about the growth and call of Samuel the prophet. During this time of Old Testament history we are told something very important about God's word. 1 Samuel 3:1 reads:

*And the child Samuel ministered unto Jehovah before Eli. And the word of Jehovah was precious in those days; there was no frequent vision.*

## **A Precious Word**

We are told in this verse that God's word was "precious" (Heb. *yah-kahr*), meaning "rare;" hence costly, valuable, honorable (used mostly of costly stones; see 1 K. 10:2,10,11). Here, we need to consider an important lesson - that God's word is precious, costly, valuable, honorable.

But, the question for us today is: Is God's word really precious to you and to me? Note Samuel's good attitude toward God's precious word:

First, he had an attitude of wanting to hear what the Lord had spoken (3:9). Do we always want to hear what the Lord speaks (in the Bible), or what man speaks?

Second, he told Eli about the Lord's punishment of Eli's sin and this

had to be a hard thing to do (3:18). Do we always tell others God's word even though it may be controversial to do so?

Third, Samuel spoke only the Lord's words and the Lord was with Samuel and he did not let any of Samuel's words go unfulfilled (3:19). Do we always speak the truth of God's word, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else?

Have you ever thought about what makes something precious or valuable? One thing that can make something precious is its scarcity. "Precious medals" like gold, silver, and platinum are high in price because they are rare. "Precious stones" like diamonds, rubies, and pearls are high in price because they are rare. Value is often determined by availability or scarcity.

In the same way, God's word at the time of Samuel was "precious" because "there was no frequent vision" at this time. Just like precious metals and stones, God's word is precious and valuable because it is rare. We generally appreciate high-priced items. What about God's word?

## **A Precious Jesus**

God's word is indeed precious. It is precious because it tells us about the pre-

precious Jesus who saves us. Peter wrote that Jesus is precious to God (1 Peter 2:4, 6). He is precious because he shed his precious blood for the sins of mankind (1 Peter 1:19).

What can attack the preciousness of Jesus' blood? When a sinner will not believe in Jesus and apply his blood in baptism, the precious blood of Jesus will be lost (Romans 3:25). When a Christian will not properly observe the Lord's supper, the precious blood of Jesus will be lost (1 Corinthians 11:27). When an erring Christian falls away and despises Jesus' blood, the precious blood of Jesus will be lost (Hebrews 10:29).

## **A Precious Faith**

God's word is precious because by reading it and hearing it, Christians can share in a "like precious faith" (2 Peter 1:1). When we believe upon Jesus it is precious (1 Peter 2:7). When our faith is proved and tested and found to be genuine, "it is more precious than gold that perishes" (1 Peter 1:7).

What can attack the preciousness of this faith of ours? Well, when we fail to read, learn, and teach God's word, we will lose our precious faith (Amos