



## Who is Precious to You?

**I**n ladies Bible class, we have been studying the epistle of First Peter. Peter writes in this epistle to those who have been scattered abroad by persecution, particularly, those who have been born again through the redemption of the blood of Christ and struggling to be faithful to the Christ. He encourages them to stand steadfast and remain faithful even in adverse situations.

In chapter two of this great book, Peter calls attention to the fact that these Christians, through their new birth, have left behind the things of the world, malice, guile, hypocrisy, envying, and evil speaking. He then encourages these Christians to drink the honest milk of the word so that they can grow in their faith. If they continue to grow, they will be part of the spiritual house of God as living stones. Their edification, however, is based upon the foundation of Christ, and their acknowledgement of His **preciousness**.

When we think of the word "precious" we think of something which has inherent value, worth, is highly prized and rarely obtained. In the movie and book series, "Lord of the Rings," those who are taken with the "one ring" often refer to it as "precious." The devotion that these characters display to the ring reflects their servitude and misguided zeal toward it. When speaking the word "precious" (in regard to the ring) they reveal love, devotion, zeal, and jealousy in their desire for it. While the ring represents something which is evil, do we have the same love, devotion, and zeal toward that which we know is good? **The Bible says that Jesus is indeed precious** to us who are born again to righteousness, edification, and sanctification.

In 1 Peter 2:7 we have this statement, **"Unto you therefore which believe He is precious."** Is Jesus precious to you? Do you value Him like you would value your most prized possession?

**Jesus is precious to me because His blood is precious.** 1 Peter 1:19 says that we were not redeemed with corruptible things "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." This is the blood that paid the price for my sins and bought me back from perdition (1 Cor.6:20). This is the blood that purchased the church (Acts 20:28). This is the blood that speaks greater things than that of Abel (Heb.12:24). The blood of Jesus ought to be precious in the sight of every Christian.

**Jesus is precious to me because His faith is precious to me.** 2 Peter 1:1 reads, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." This is faith that comes from the one true faith, the gospel (Col.1:23). This is the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). This is the faith that comes by hearing the word of God (Rom.10:17). The faith of Jesus ought to be precious in the sight of every Christian.

**Jesus is precious to me because His people are precious.** 1 Peter 2:9 reads, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." Does this not say that God considers those who are born again, who believe in His Son, and who hold Jesus as precious, are precious people themselves? The people of God are certainly precious to God. They are precious because they are His children (Gal.4:6,7). They are precious because they are His friends (John 15:15). They are precious because they are Jesus' bride (Eph.5:25). Jesus considers his people precious and because of that every Christian ought to praise God day and night for His great love.

**Is Jesus your precious?**

Kevin Cauley

# The Passion of God

**P**ASSION! The word is listed twice in the dictionary. The first listing gives as the first definition: "Intense or overpowering emotion." The second listing states:

"The sufferings of Christ, especially in the agony of the garden and on the cross." [source: Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary © 1973]

Perhaps you have already seen Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion Of The Christ" or have at least heard some of the hype preceding its release. I had read several articles, listened to interviews, watched a TV special on the making of the movie, and talked with people who had already viewed it to see what they thought. Yesterday my wife and I went and watched it ourselves.

The cruel punishment and execution by crucifixion at the hand of the Romans were very graphically portrayed. The film contained much dialogue not found in Scripture while many other statements in Scripture I anticipated at various points in the film were not included. But it was a very moving film and

hopefully will engage people in conversation regarding the truth of Jesus and lead to the reading of the accounts contained in the Scriptures.

"The Passion Of The Christ" was preceded by the PASSION OF GOD! The reality of Jesus going to the cross was all a part of the Father's plan. It was the PASSION OF GOD for lost humanity that moved Him to send the Son. God was intent on meeting our greatest need -- complete cleansing from sin -- my sin -- your sin -- sin that put Jesus on the cross to shed his powerful life giving blood.

In our Lord's encounter with Nicodemus, Jesus expressed the PASSION OF GOD in these words:

"For GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 ESV)

Peter noted the PASSION OF GOD when he wrote...

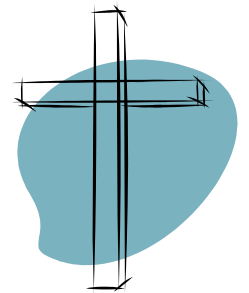
"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, NOT WISHING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD

REACH REPENTANCE." (2 Peter 3:9 ESV)

God takes no delight in condemning. His greatest desire is for Jesus to be accepted and submitted to as Lord and Savior. It is through Jesus Christ that God provided the adequate means for salvation from sin. He was PASSIONATE about providing for that greatest need; PASSIONATE enough to send the Son and the Son was willing to endure a horrible death on our behalf. And He rose on the third day, revealing His power over death and the assurance of the same power to provide for our resurrection as well.

The PASSION OF GOD provided the means of our salvation even while we were undeserving of it. (Romans 5:7) That PASSION ought to draw us into

a loving and obedient relationship to Him. May the PASSION OF GOD produce a PASSION in us for seeking and living in accordance with His WILL.



Have a great day IMPACTED BY THE DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE!

Carl Hanson

***It was the PASSION OF GOD for lost humanity that moved Him to send the Son.***

## Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 03/14/04

Morning .....	Honorable Marriage
Scripture .....	Hebrews 12:4
Evening .....	Questions and Answers
Scripture .....	NA
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	Special Speaker: Jerry Sullins
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	How To Study the Bible

## Weekly Record

Week of 03/07/04

Sunday Class .....	67
Sunday A.M. ....	76
Sunday P.M. ....	72
Wednesday .....	61
Contribution .....	\$1786.72
Budget .....	\$1760.00

## Potpourri

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**T**his morning during our Bible class hour, Jerry Sullins from the Kansas Expressway church of Christ in Springfield will speak to us regarding the new school of preaching that was just started there this year, the Bible Institute of Missouri. Brother Sullins is the father of Ray Sullins, who is the minister for the Kansas Expressway church. Many of you know Ray Sullins from the morning television program, The Living Word.

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**I**f Biblical Headlines were written by Today's Liberal Media...

On Red Sea crossing: WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOR STRIKE; Pursuing Environmentalists Killed.

On David vs. Goliath: HATE CRIME KILLS BELOVED CHAMPION; Psychologist Questions Influence of Rock.

On Elijah on Mt. Carmel: FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS RIGHT EXTREMIST INTO FRENZY; 400 Killed.

On the birth of Christ: HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS LEFT HOMELESS Animal Rights Activists Enraged by Insensitive Couple.

On feeding the 5,000: PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH; Disciples Mystified Over Behavior.

On healing the 10 lepers: LOCAL

DOCTOR'S PRACTICE RUINED; "Faith Healer" Causes Bankruptcy

On healing of the Gadarene demoniac: MADMAN'S FRIEND CAUSES STAMPEDE; Local Farmer's Investment Lost.

On raising Lazarus from the dead: FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHER RAISES A STINK; Reading of Will to be Delayed.

As Christians, we must be on guard against all evil influences in our lives. The media's spin doctoring of news stories influences an enormous amount of people every day. We need to be careful that we recognize what the difference is between reporting the news and slanting the news, especially with today's social issues. The Bible is clear on certain things; let's not let the media change our mind!

## Kevin's Korner

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**L**eon Duncan let me borrow his tiller this week and we got busy this past Thursday night preparing a spot in the back yard for a garden. We skipped making one last year, but the bug got a hold of me this year and now is the time to start working on it. I also could stand the garden working on me a bit too; someone ask me if I was in shape a few weeks ago and I said, "sure, round is a shape, isn't it?" Well, it is a shape, but not the desirable kind.

We got the boys signed up for baseball yesterday. We had a great time last year watching them play, and visiting with the other parents in the community. Several of our other parents here had their kids in the league as well. Once the schedule gets posted and if you have some free evenings, perhaps you could come

out and cheer on one of the teams of one of our families.

Well, the downstairs area has been scraped, painted, stripped, vacated, swept, and painted some more. All that needs to happen now is that we have the carpet layers come in and put the carpet down. That is going to happen this week. We HOPE that next Sunday, the carpet will be in place. However, sometimes things can interfere and cause delays. We hope that won't happen, but just in case, we are moving the potluck for next Sunday to the fourth Sunday of the month instead. We will need to have one more work day to move all of the furniture that was moved to the lower building back up to the downstairs area. It shouldn't take too long provided several of us show up to help move everything back up here. Rusty and Brent will be filling us in on the details.

Dan Hand wanted me to put in the bulletin that his son, Joel Hand, is looking for a rent house for him and his family. This family is moving to Berryville at the end of the month. He has two children and needs a two or three bedroom house by April 1st. Joel will be working with the county sheriff's department. Dan and Hewetta will be flying up to Seattle to help them move on the 29th.

### Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,  
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn  
Quigley

### Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,  
Rusty Windle.

### Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

# News, Notes, and 'Nouncements

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Let us remain in prayer for the following individuals: Marie Adams, Michael Collins, Jimmie Forehand, Brian Guess, Hulen Penn, Charlene Pinkley, Chris Pinkley.
- Please remember our shut ins: Curtis and Opal Hull, Edith Mischler, Mary Patterson, Art Roberts.
- Our youth devotional will be next Sunday night after services at Kevin and Mary Lynn Cauley's house. We will be having sandwiches. Please bring chips, drinks, and chocolate, but not for Rusty.
- We want to thank everyone who came out yesterday for the men's breakfast and work day. We appreciate your efforts. Our new carpet should be in this week.
- Next Sunday's potluck is going to be moved to the fourth Sunday of this month due to the carpet replacement work downstairs.
- Friends and Family flyers are available in the back. Be sure to start handing these out to people you know. June is only three months away and the time to start inviting is now. Let's get our friends and family to put us on their schedule soon!
- There are several gospel meetings going on in our area right now. Please check the bulletin board for details.
- This past week, March 9th, Curtis and Opal Hull celebrated 69 years of marriage together. What an accomplishment. Curtis told me the other day when visiting with them, "I can't remember life without her." Congratulations are in order.
- The pantry item for this week is Sugar.



## Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

### Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship: ..... 6:00 PM  
 Ladies Bible Class: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: ..... 7:00 PM

### Serving Each Other

	March 14th, 2004	March 21st, 2004
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Matt Bassing	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Sandy Nieves
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
(assist)	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
	Brandon Foster	Jerry Roller
	Larry Elliott	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Dan Hand	Glenn Williams
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Larry Elliott
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Glenn Williams	Brent Stevens
Scripture Reading:	Bob Moore	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	John Gass
	Jack Gentry	Ray Duncan
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Dale Pinkley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Leon Duncan
Invitation:	Bill Fort	Bob Moore
Closing Prayer:	Brandon Foster	Perry Foster

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