

What is Your Pearl of Great Price?

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Brethren, this afternoon we will begin the sermon in Matthew 13:45, and we will read one of Jesus' parables concerning the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

Matthew 13:45 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:*

46) Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (NKJV)

So here is a man who found one precious pearl, a priceless pearl, and he went and sold everything that he owned, everything that he possessed, everything else that was of value to him, in order to raise the money so that he could purchase that precious pearl. The man valued that pearl more than all of his other possessions combined.

Over the past decades, I have heard numerous sermons on the topic of the "Pearl of Great Price". I have heard many sermons discuss and proclaim what that "Pearl of Great Price" was. I have heard that the "Pearl of Great Price" was God's Truth, that it was the knowledge of God's Plan of Salvation, that it was the knowledge of the Millennium and the return of Jesus Christ, or that it was the Kingdom of God itself.

Brethren, the "Pearl of Great Price" is not the Kingdom of God itself. It is not the knowledge of the Plan of Salvation itself. It is not the knowledge of the Millennium itself and the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. It is not the general knowledge of God's Truth. All of these things are important and form a basis on which we can have the "Pearl of Great Price". But they are not the "Pearl of Great Price".

In my sermon this afternoon entitled "What Is Your Pearl of Great Price"?, I would like to explore the subject of that "Pearl of Great Price" and explore what is the most important thing in your life.

In doing so, we will answer the question – What *is* your "Pearl of Great Price"?

I would like to explore this subject through four points, each showing a characteristic of this "Pearl of Great Price".

The first point in our discussion of the "Pearl of Great Price" is:

1. What you value most is where your heart is.

In Matthew 6 Jesus was instructing the multitudes who had gathered to hear Him in His Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 6:19 *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:*

20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (KJV)

So, Jesus tells us that where our treasure is, our heart will be there also. It is simply a human characteristic to treasure most what we value most. There is an old saying that “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” Why is that so? Why is the same item viewed as a piece of trash by one person and viewed as a treasure by another person? The difference between trash and treasure is simply the value placed upon that item by the person. The difference can be ignorance of its monetary value. We have heard many stories of worthless items stored in the basement being found to be worth millions of dollars. The difference can also be personal in nature. A special letter from a family member now deceased, a memento of a job well done from your company, a souvenir from the Feast which reminds us of great memories, a gift from someone very special to us, a picture drawn by your daughter when she was a little girl that says “I love you, Daddy!” All of these have great value to that particular person, but there is no value, no emotional attachment of these items to other people. Again, we treasure the things that appeal to our heart and that are special to our heart.

Matthew 13:44 is the verse before the verse that we started the sermon with.

Matthew 13:44 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. (KJV)*

Here, the man finds a treasure in the field. The man understands the value of that treasure in the field. An important concept is that it was valuable only to him. In fact, it was so valuable to him that he sold all that he had and bought the whole field with the treasure in it. The owner of the field apparently did not know of the treasure, or the owner did not place the same priceless value on the treasure that the man did.

Brethren, where is our heart? Our most valuable treasure is what we love the most. And what are we to love the most?

In Mark 12 Jesus Christ was asked what the most important commandment was. Jesus answered the question by quoting from Deuteronomy 6:04, which is known as the Shema (which is Hebrew for “Hear” – the first word of the verse).

Mark 12:29 *And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord [“Κύριος” (kurios) without a definite article = Yehovah = God the Father] our God is one Lord:*

30) *And thou shalt love the Lord* [“Κύριος” (kurios) without a definite article = Jehovah = God the Father] *thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

31) *And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.* (KJV)

So, the most important commandment that we can keep every minute, of every hour, of every day in our lives is to love God the Father with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Brethren, what do we love most in our lives? Do we love what our Heavenly Father loves? Here are four things that God the Father loves. The list could be very long, but I want concentrate on four items.

A. God the Father loves righteousness

In Psalm 11 David wrote about God the Father and righteousness.

Psalm 11:7 *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.* (KJV)

Psalm 33:4-5 *For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. 5) He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.* (KJV)

These verses show that God the Father loves righteousness.

Matthew 6:33 is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible. Yet, sometimes when something is so familiar, we lose what is really being said.

Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* (KJV)

In verse 33, the Kingdom of God in Greek is *βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ* (basileian tou theou) which means “the Kingdom of the God”. Again “ὁ θεός” (ho theos) in all its declensions in Greek refers to God the Father. Verse 33 is saying that we are to seek the Kingdom of God the Father.

However, we usually stop here and don’t continue the verse. There are actually two things that we are to seek. We are to seek the Kingdom of God the Father *and* His righteousness.

For decades I have been quoting this verse wrongly. I’ve been saying:

“Seek you first the Kingdom of God and *its* righteousness.”

That is not what it says. In fact, in Greek, there are three genders (masculine, feminine, and neuter). *Kingdom* in Greek is feminine whereas *God* in Greek is masculine. If the *righteousness* was referring to the Kingdom, it would have been written in Greek as “her righteousness.” But it is written in Greek as “His righteousness.” So, we are to seek the righteousness of our Heavenly Father.

God the Father loves righteousness because He is righteous. Do we love righteousness? Do we seek it and value it and practise it every day? Do we keep the Commandments every day? Do we truly love our Father’s way of life above all other ways? Do we avoid the attractiveness, the glitter, and the trappings of sin and Satan’s way, and instead do we turn to our Heavenly Father and follow His righteous way?

B. God the Father loves generosity.

There are two familiar verses in 2 Corinthians 9. For most of us in past years, these verses were read every Holy Day before the collection of the offering.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
7) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *cheerful* in verse 7 is “ἡλάρος” (hilaros) Strong’s #2431 which means “joyous, cheerful, not grudging,” but the word has the connotation of being “cheerfully ready to act.” This connotation is important because verse 7 then has a slightly different connotation in that it says “God the Father loves those who are always cheerfully ready to give.”

God the Father loves generosity because He is generous. Brethren, are we generous? Are we always cheerfully ready to give in whatever capacity that we are able? It’s not just about being generous with money. Are we always cheerfully ready to give our time, our efforts, our compassion, and our attention to others in need? Are we always cheerfully ready to give our time in prayer for one another, to devote time to help one another in our journey to the Kingdom?

C. God the Father loves His potential spiritual sons & daughters

Let’s go to the most quoted verse in the entire Bible, a verse known by heart throughout the entire world – John 3:16.

John 3:16 *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. (KJV)*

The Greek verb for “to love” is “ἀγαπάω” (agapaō) Strong’s #25. This verb is the verb form of the noun “ἀγάπη” (agape) Strong’s #26, which we all know to be the special, selfless, unending Godly love that God the Father and Jesus Christ have for us.

So, God the Father loved each and every one of us so much that He was willing to let His own Son, Jesus the Anointed One, be mocked, mistreated, tortured and killed in order that we may have spiritual life eternally in His Kingdom. Our Heavenly Father showed His immense love for us in that special way.

Brethren, do we show love for one another in how we talk with one another, in how we act with one another, in how we treat one another? Is our Heavenly Father pleased with our speech, with our actions, with our motivations, and with our attitudes? Are our actions, our motivations, and our attitudes and our speech reflective of and representative of God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ?

D. God the Father loves a humble and contrite spirit.

In James 4:6, James wrote a quote from Psalm 138:6 concerning humility.

James 4:6 *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (KJV)*

The humble receive favor in the sight of our Heavenly Father. God the Father despises a proud attitude. He despises the attitude that is boastful and that sets itself above others in value, in importance, and in stature. Jesus addresses this attitude in Matthew 23:12.

Matthew 23:12 *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. (KJV)*

In Psalm 34 David wrote about a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:18 *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. (KJV)*

David wrote that God the Father is near unto those who have a humble and contrite spirit. He is near to them because He loves that attitude and because He is attracted to that attitude. God the Father searches for those with whom and through whom He can work.

Isaiah 66:2 *For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (KJV)*

Again, God the Father looks to and is attracted to those who show and exhibit this contrite attitude because God the Father loves this attitude towards Him and towards others.

In Philippians 2 the Apostle Paul exhorted us to not be vain and proud and striving to be “top dog” but instead to be humble in our dealings with one another.

Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. (KJV)*

Brethren, do we esteem others better than ourselves by the way we speak to one another and act towards one another and treat one another?

God the Father loves righteousness. He loves generosity. He loves us and the world. And He loves a humble and contrite attitude and spirit in us. These are things that God the Father loves and values. These are things that are near and dear to our Heavenly Father’s heart and desire.

Are these things the things that we value in our lives? Are these same items near and dear to us in our hearts and in our desires? Do we treasure what God the Father treasures?

Again, where our treasure is, our heart is also.

The second point in our discussion of the “Pearl of Great Price” is:

2. What value do we place on our calling?

We cannot discuss our incredible calling without starting with John 6:44.

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (KJV)*

We know from this verse that it is God the Father Who chooses us, Who calls us, Who draws us to His Son, Jesus Christ. Have we ever wondered how long our Heavenly Father studied us, researched us, observed us, discussed us with His Son, discussed us with Satan like He did concerning Job, contemplated whether He would call us now in this life or not?

Brethren, there is a reason why each of us is here. There is a reason why God the Father chose you to understand His truth in this lifetime. There is a reason why He took the chance on you in calling you now to be part of His Firstfruit harvest. Our Heavenly Father and His Son are going to accomplish mighty incredible things through us, in this life now and in His Kingdom to come. In 1 Corinthians 1 the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren about our calling.

1 Corinthians 1:26 *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

27) *But God [ὁ θεός – ho theos – God the Father] hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God [ὁ θεός – ho theos – God the Father] hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

28) *And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God [ὁ θεός – ho theos – God the Father] chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*

29) *That no flesh should glory in his presence.*

30) *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God [ὁ θεός – ho theos – God the Father] is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

31) *That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord [Κυρίῳ – kurio – the dative of Κύριος without the definite article “the” – God the Father]. (KJV)*

So, we understand many concepts here in these few verses to the Corinthians. We understand that we have a calling, that God the Father has called us too, that He called us because we are the weak of the world and are the things the world despises and overlooks, that the glory never is on us, but the glory is always on our Heavenly Father.

The Greek word for *calling* is “κλήσις” (klésis) Strong’s #2821 which means “calling or invitation.” So, God the Father is inviting us to have a relationship with Him and with Jesus Christ.

Brethren, do we value this calling? Is it important to us? Do we thank our Father every day that He called us out of the billions and billions of people on this earth, that He opened our minds and our understanding to His precious truth? That He in all His glory and power as the most powerful Being in all the universe along with His Son are working with us to bring us to glory? That we have access to Him instantly and at all times because of the blood of His Son? What great blessings we enjoy and have received because our Heavenly Father has called us and chosen to work with us!

The Apostle Paul wrote about our high calling in Philipppians 3.

Philippians 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *high* in this verse is “ἄνω” (anó) Strong’s #507 which means “up, above, on high.” So, Paul is stating that he is striving for the reward of the calling from on high from God the Father.

In 2 Peter 1, the Apostle Peter gives us a warning and an exhortation concerning our marvelous calling from our Heavenly Father.

2 Peter 1:10 *Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (KJV)*

I really like the way that this verse is translated in the New Living Translation because it adds a slightly different perspective and viewpoint concerning our calling.

2 Peter 1:10 *So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. (NLT)*

Are we working hard to prove that we really are among those whom God the Father has called and chosen? Again, warming a chair at church is not enough! Can other people, our neighbors, our coworkers at work, our friends at school, and our brethren in the faith see the difference that our Father’s calling has made in our lives? Are we different from others? Can others spot that difference quickly by the way we act, the way we talk, and the way we treat others?

In Hebrews 2, we read another serious warning and exhortation concerning our calling and our opportunity for our spiritual salvation from that calling.

Hebrews 2:3 *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; (KJV)*

The Greek word of *neglect* is “ἀμελέω” (ameleó) Strong’s #272 which means “to make light of, to neglect, to disregard, to view something without perceived value.”

How valuable do we view our calling, our spiritual salvation, our future in the Kingdom? Do we view our calling as something without value? Do the cares of this world crowd out our Heavenly Father and diminish the importance of and the special nature of His calling of us? If we allow the cares of anything else to diminish the importance of that calling, we are beginning to neglect our great salvation.

So, brethren, what value do we truly place on our calling from God the Father?

The third point in our discussion of the “Pearl of Great Price” is:

3. What value do we place on the hope of our future?

Brethren, one of the great blessings of our calling is that we have hope. One thing that the world is so lacking in today’s age is hope. There is a general feeling of impending doom. People here in America see absolutely terrible events unfolding before them at every turn, and all seem powerless to stop or change anything. People are growing more and more in despair. People are growing more and more pessimistic on the outlook for the continuation of our society.

Before our calling, we were just like the world, having no real hope for our future. The Apostle Paul explains this in Ephesians 2.

Ephesians 2:12-13 *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:*

13) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (KJV)

Whereas we had no hope in the past, the calling that God the Father has given us great hope. Paul taught this to the congregation in Ephesus in Ephesians 4.

Ephesians 4:1-6 *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*

2) With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3) Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4) There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6) One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (KJV)

Paul further explains the reason for the hope from our calling.

Ephesians 1:16 *Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;*

17) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19) *“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, (KJV)*

Brethren, the hope of our calling includes the riches of the glory of the inheritance that God the Father will willingly give to us.

We all look forward to and have hope in the First Resurrection, an event pictured by the Holy Day of Pentecost. With our understanding of who God the Father is in the Bible, 1 Thessalonians 4 reads differently than how we have read it for decades.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

14) *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God [ὁ θεός – ho theos – God the Father] bring with him.*

15) *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord [Κύριος without the definite article “the” – God the Father], that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord [ὁ Κύριος with the definite article “the” – Jesus Christ] shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

16) *For the Lord [ὁ Κύριος with the definite article “the” – Jesus Christ] himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God [ὁ θεός – ho theos – God the Father]: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

17) *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord [ὁ Κύριος with the definite article “the” – Jesus Christ] in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord [Κύριος without the definite article “the” – God the Father]. (KJV)*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

(From KJV with substitutions) *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

14) *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God the Father bring with him.*

15) *For this we say unto you by the word of God the Father, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of Jesus Christ shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

16) *For Jesus Christ himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God the Father: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

17) *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet Jesus Christ in the air: and so shall we ever be with God the Father.*

That is just an incredible future that gives us hope. But that is not the end of the story.

Look at Revelation 20. We will be given responsibilities and duties in helping the entirety of humanity to have a chance to learn the Father's way of life and to govern and administer the government of Jesus Christ in His 1000-year reign known as the Millennium.

Revelation 20:4 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (JKV)*

Verse 21 of Revelation 3 tells us we will sit with Jesus Christ in His throne.

Revelation 3:21 *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (KJV)*

But that is not the end of the story. The saints who have been called in this lifetime will always have a special place in the Father's Kingdom.

Revelation 3:11 *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man takes thy crown.*

12) Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (KJV)

We will be pillars in the temple of God the Father! We will always be there with God the Father, and we will go no more out. We will all have three names written upon us, the name of God the Father, the name of the New Jerusalem, and Jesus Christ's new name.

Brethren, we have a wonderful hope that the world just does not have. Do we truly value that hope? Does that hope motivate us to strive to overcome sin, to strive to treat others better, to strive to be better lights to the world?

What value do we place on the hope of our future?

The fourth point in our discussion of the "Pearl of Great Price" is:

4. What value do we place on our relationship with our Heavenly Father?

As we explored before, God the Father has personally called us and has personally invited us to have a relationship with Him that the world just does not have and cannot have at this time. In 1 Corinthians 2 the Apostle Paul wrote about the deep things of the Father which come from that relationship.

Over the past few years, we have learned from scripture, so much about God the Father. Who He is, His identity in scripture, and His love for us. I believe that He is continuing to open our minds to understand about Him more deeply as we yield more and more to His will.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

10) But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. (KJV)

God the Father has interacted with his called-out ones and with mankind in different ways over time. This is a main point of the beginning portion of the book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:1 *God [ὁ θεός – ho theos – God the Father], who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (KJV)

Hebrews 1:1 *In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,*

2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. (NIV)

So, God the Father has spoken to our predecessors in the faith through the prophets in the Old Testament.

But in the beginning, before the time of the prophets, God the Father interacted with His people on a one-on-one individual basis. Adam and Eve talked directly with God the Father. Noah talked directly with God the Father. Abraham talked directly with God the Father.

Then the interaction changed with the nation of Israel. Although God the Father talked directly with Moses, He did not talk directly with the Israelites anymore after Mount Sinai. From then on, God the Father began speaking to His people through His servants and His prophets.

There is not an example in the Bible that I know of where God the Father ever talked directly with David. He talked to David through the prophets, one of which was Nathan.

Then with the coming of Jesus Christ to the earth as the Messiah, the Anointed One, God the Father spoke to His people through His Son, and then He began to speak to His people through His written Word, the Bible.

What is amazing to consider is that through time, the way that God the Father has communicated with His people has grown less and less direct, from personal interaction, to interaction with the prophets, to interaction with His Son on the earth, to interaction through the written word. Yet, at the same time, the personal nature of God the Father has become closer and closer with His people.

In Exodus 6 God the Father said something very important and interesting to Moses concerning His relationship in the past with the patriarchs and His relationship now with the Israelites. Here He reveals a little bit more of Himself.

Exodus 6:2 *And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:*

3) And I appeared [in Hebrew, the verb form of appeared used means “to present oneself” – I presented Myself] unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of [these words are not in the Hebrew text] God Almighty [El Shaddai], but by my name JEHOVAH [Yehovah] was I not known to them. (KJV)

So, the patriarchs of the faith before Moses knew God the Father as *God Almighty* – El Shaddai. They all knew and addressed God the Father with His title. Then starting with Moses, the people of God knew and addressed God the Father with a name – *Yehovah*. God the Father revealed more about Himself than before. Throughout the time of the prophets, God the Father was known by His name – *Yehovah*.

Yet with the coming of Jesus Christ on the earth, God the Father again revealed more about Himself and our relationship with Him. Jesus Christ showed that God the Father was indeed our Heavenly Father. Our relationship with Him has deepened to where our relationship with Him is as His very sons and daughters. We have a familial relationship with Him, even at the time that He has chosen to speak to us only through His written Word.

Brethren, what is that special familial relationship worth to us? What value do we place on having and maintaining that special relationship? What value do we place on the ability to have instant access to God the Father on His throne through His Son whenever we want, whenever we pray, whenever we talk to Him?

Again, in Hebrews 4 Jesus Christ and His blood allow us to have this instant access to our Heavenly Father.

Hebrews 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (KJV)

Not only do we have instant access to God the Father, but we are also exhorted to come to His throne boldly and with confidence. What value do we place on that ability?

In Romans 8. The Apostle Paul wrote about our special relationship with God the Father.

Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (JKV)

So, we are the children of our Heavenly Father and we are heirs of the Father and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. The Greek word translated as *adoption* in verse 15 is “*υιοθεσία*” (*huiiothesia*) Strong's #5206 which means “sonship.” Therefore, we have received the Spirit of sonship whereby we cry “Father.” We have the great honor and privilege of referring to the most powerful Being in the universe as our own Father. What value do we place on that?

In 1 John 3, we read two very powerful, inspirational, and encouraging verses.

1 John 3:1 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

2) 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. (KJV)

These two verses show:

- (1) the depth of God the Father's love for us;
- (2) that we are the sons of God the Father;
- (3) upon our resurrection, we will be like God the Father;
- (4) we will see God the Father as He is.

We cannot even begin to visualize being able to look upon God the Father in all His glory, being able to talk directly to Him face to face, and being able to be instructed by Him for all eternity to come. What a wonderful Father-son relationship!

What value do we place on our relationship with our Heavenly Father?

We have discussed four major points in today's sermon:

1. *What you value most is where your heart is.*
2. *What value do we place on our calling?*
3. *What value do we place on the hope of our future?*
4. *What value do we place on our relationship with our Heavenly Father?*

But what is the "Pearl of Great Price"? Brethren, the "Pearl of Great Price" is our personal individual relationship with God the Father, a relationship that He, and only He, can start. Everything else flows from that relationship with Him.

Knowledge is not the "Pearl of Great Price". Knowledge of the truth is important – it is crucial. But knowledge can puff up and make us boastful. Our relationship with God the Father will lead us to more understanding and more knowledge of His way.

The Kingdom of God is not the "Pearl of Great Price". Without a personal relationship with God the Father, we will never enter the Kingdom of God.

Salvation is not the "Pearl of Great Price". Without a personal relationship with God the Father, we will not receive salvation and we will not receive eternal life.

Brethren, everything – everything – flows from our own personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. Without a relationship with God the Father, we will not value what He values. Without a relationship with God the Father, our calling is meaningless. Without a relationship with God the Father, we have no hope for our future.

So, what are we doing to deepen and strengthen our relationship with our Heavenly Father? To draw ever closer to Him? To follow Him more closely? To follow more closely the example set for us by His Son, Jesus Christ? Are we putting away our sins? Are we studying the Father's Words in the Bible? Are we praying to Him?

Turn to Colossians 4 for a final scripture. What are we doing with the time that we have left on this earth? I've had three friends die within the past two weeks. None of us know the time that we have left to do the things that we need to do.

Colossians 4:2 *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*

- 3) *Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:*
- 4) *That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.*
- 5) *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. (KJV)*

The Greek verb for *redeem* is “ἐξαγοράζω” (exagorazó) Strong’s #1805 which means “to buy up, to buy away from, to redeem, to rescue from loss.” The Apostle Paul also exhorts us to redeem the time in Ephesians 5:16. Are we rescuing from loss the time that we have left? Are we prioritizing our Heavenly Father as the most important aspect of our lives?

We make time in our lives for the important things that we value and we make them priorities. The most important things in our lives are what we value the most and what we treasure the most. Is our relationship with our Heavenly Father, God the Father Almighty, the most important part of our lives?

What are you willing to give up everything for?

Brethren, I end today’s message with a question for you, a question which is the title of this sermon. What is “Your Pearl of Great Price”?