

Theme: We should treasure God's Word, delighting in this great gift God has given to us that we might know Him.

I. Intro – Mark and I Visit Manifold Greatness

- A. Amazing exhibit at Folger Library in DC
- B. Coverdale Bible (1535) - \$445,00
- C. Wycliffe Bible from 1300's - worth over \$2 million
- D. Caedmon manuscript - priceless!!
- E. Truly treasures!
- F. But the Word of God is the greatest treasure of all!

II. The Treasure of God's Word

- A. Note how Job treasures God's Word
 - 1. Job has not left God's word behind (v12a)
 - 2. Job treasures the words of God's mouth (v12b)
 - 3. Treasured more than daily bread (v12bc)
 - 4. And this is in spite of great afflictions!
- B. The treasure of God's Word
 - 1. More precious than a lot silver & gold (Ps. 119:72)
 - 2. More precious than much pure gold (Ps. 19:9-10)
- C. We are called to delight in this treasure
 - 1. Ps 1:1-2 - blessed; no heed to wicked; delights
 - 2. Ps 112:1 - Blessed delight in God's word (acrostic)
 - 3. Psalm 119 - magnum opus to God's Word

- a. Delight in God's word - 9 times
- b. Love God's word - 11 times
- c. Examples:
 - 1. v47 - delight and love commands
 - 2. v16 - delight in decrees; not neglect word
 - 3. v97 - I love your law; meditate all day long

III. Why We Should Treasure God's Word

- A. It is God's Word - His lips; His mouth (Job 23:12)
- B. It is our spiritual food (Matthew 4:4)
- C. It is our foundation (Matthew 7:24-27) - hear and obey
- D. It sustains us in times of trouble (Job; Psa. 119:50)
- E. The sacrifice paid to get it to us (Heb 11:35-38)
 - 1. Prophets and apostles martyred to write it
 - 2. Christians suffered to pass it along
 - 3. Reformers died to translate it so we could read
 - 4. This Word was paid for with the blood the saints
- F. It teaches us the way of salvation (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - 1. This is the central focus of Scripture
 - 2. This is the **only** place we can learn this!!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we realize the treasure we have in God's Word?

1. This is the greatest treasure in the world!
2. Beware of the contempt of familiarity!
3. I encourage you to stir up your delight for Scripture!
4. Let 2012 be a year of digging into the Word of God

B. Communion - The Word Made Visible

1. The sacraments are the Word made visible
2. The central message - Christ and His atoning work
3. This is what we see and celebrate at the Table
4. Come receive the benefits of Christ for you

God's Word - Our Treasure

Job 23:12
January 1, 2012
Communion
Deuteronomy 1:11

The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Psalms 119:72

The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. 10 **They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold**; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. Psalms 19:9-10

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** Psalms 1:1–2

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. Psalms 112:1

I delight in your commands because I love them. Psalms 119:47

I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. Psalms 119:16

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psalms 119:97

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ Matthew 4:4

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24–27

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life. Psalms 119:50

Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37 They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. Hebrews 11:35–38

From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15