

God's Precious Possession

Look At What the Scriptures Describe Concerning Us!

By B. D. Tate

The scriptures describe our (born again believer's) purpose in relationship to the Lord in these kinds of terms: **We are His workmanship** (Eph. 2:8); **We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit** (I Cor. 6:19); **We are ambassadors for Christ** (II Cor. 5:20); **We are ministers of reconciliation** (II Cor. 5:18); **We are the body of Christ** (Eph. 1:23); **We are living sacrifices offering ourselves in worship** (Rom. 12:1); **We are vessels and channels of the divine nature** (II Pet. 1:4); **we have the treasure of heaven in earthen vessels** (II Cor. 4:7); **we are His witnesses** (Acts 1:8); **we are the light of the world** (Matt. 5:14); **we are as He (Christ) is in the world** (I John 4:17); **we are to reign in life through His righteousness** (Rom. 5:17); **we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus** (Rom. 8:37)...

I don't believe I've mentioned all of the references to such things given in the New Testament; yet, each one is powerful unto itself and enlightens our understanding ***to what God has made us and has for us. Our purpose is powerful and our calling is the highest possible***; however, as glorious as any one of these are they do not compare to God's ultimate reason for our existence. **We are God's precious possession!**

We Were Created for His Pleasure (Col. 1:16).

We were created to be just like Jesus to the Father (II Cor. 3:18). We were created to be ***One with God***. With any product or project generally two major themes emerge. The first is function in that whatever something is made for it is made to *fulfill a*

purpose. It is made to do something and mainly fill a need. The second is that whatever something is made for it is made for *beauty and form*. We don't just have a car that gets us about we want something we enjoy getting about in. We don't just wear clothes we like to wear things that make us feel good or attractive in. **This form and function applies to us in regards to God.**

God isn't just in the using business in fact it is not His first concern. **The first interest is the highest in that God wants us to be loved and to return His love—be one is relationship.** God could have made us robots with no understanding made to do whatever assigned. God could have made us like pets that adore him, focus on Him, and bring Him pleasure from time to time as a supplement to His existence. God could have made us servants that do His bidding and serve His purposes. A servant doesn't know what God is up to and has no say in any decision.

Jesus calls us friends:

John 15:15 **"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**

All of creation was made for us to enjoy, explore, and grow in the knowledge of God through it. God has poured out His love and invested *beyond our comprehension* in our being. We could say that God **has spared no expense** to lavish upon us such a wonderful existence.

Ro 8:32 **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

God could have easily given up on us and dismissed this whole idea of life as we know it. He could have gotten bored with it. He could have easily become disenchanted with our selfishness and become so angry at our cruelty that He simply destroyed us. We would have never known existence we simply would have been obliterated.

Why Does He Keep Us Around?

Why does He tolerate our sin? Why does He tolerate our rebellion? Why does He tolerate our disrespect, pride and lies? According to scripture He did destroy the ancient world with a flood:

Gen. 6: 5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, **and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

11 "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Certainly we can understand that if God made us He can destroy us. Jesus said,

Lu 12:5 **"But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!**

Yet, here we are still existing, still around, and still doing our own thing for the most part (as the human race). What could we possibly offer God? What is God after and prize so much that:

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.

17 **For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;** but **that the world through him might be saved.**

It's Not About Us It's About Him!

Maybe it's not so much about us and what we offer but it's about who God is and what He's offering? What if our existence is so that we could enjoy Him? Our preciousness to Him comes from His integrity and His wisdom. Our preciousness to Him comes from His amazing love. His love is pure but it is also just. His love is beautiful and it is also holy. *How do we know these things?* We know these things because the Bible describes God so but it is also because we can understand it by the world we live in.

We understand sin and rebellion. We understand truth and justice. We understand holiness and righteousness because our world proves it. We see that selfishness and pride causes all suffering and violence in this realm—does anyone really deny that? We understand truth and justice by laws and law breaking. We understand holiness and righteousness because we know what ugliness and unrighteousness looks like. When we see God in Christ we see beauty, integrity, truth, grace, love, power, kindness, self control, longsuffering—we see God's glory as opposed to any other human being.

Darkness only magnifies the light and certainly God's glory is manifest greatly by our depravity. This however, was not God's purpose for making us—that we'd show His glory by our sin. We were made to know God, experience God, and walk with God. **We were made to be God's channels and vessels of His glory.**

God could have made us this way without sin being an issue. He could have made us like the angels without giving us dominion or free will. We know that nothing is impossible with God as Jesus said; however, God cannot lie. God's sovereignty is structured by the fact that He cannot lie.

Nu 23:19 "**God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent.** Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Or,

Titus 1: 1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life **which God, who cannot lie**, promised before time began,

God Set Things Up!

It strongly appears that God set something up that not even He can change. He made promises to mankind that He will never violate. He gave us dominion over our souls and if we do not choose to obey and come to His salvation—**there is literally nothing He can do.** It is impossible for God to lie; therefore, when men refuse His provision of salvation it is impossible to be saved. This is God almighty, the eternal one that has no beginning and no end. This is the creator who has made everything that exists. He is

able to do abundantly beyond all we could think or ask! God is greater than our imagination infinitely so. **How could God paint Himself into a corner so to speak in regards to human destiny?** He made a situation that is literally impossible to change. He gave us choice to accept His salvation or reject it.

God did this with His eyes wide open. God decided even before we existed that we would have choice. He painted Himself into a corner of His own choosing. Then, knowing that mankind would take choice to that corner provided **an amazing answer** to escape the wrath of God's judgment. He didn't send a robot, machine, pet, or servant; He sent His only begotten Son! How incredible and amazing is that?

Why such a price for us who within God's scheme of things could have easily made others? It comes down to who God is not who we are...God is holy and just. God is love and righteous altogether. What He says He does and what He promises He keeps. **He made promises to human beings that He has made to no other.** Think about this for a moment. **Our value and purpose solely rests in God's value of us and purpose for us.**

The Precious Possession

What God created and established for us and what God has done to redeem us; **makes us His ultimate and most precious possession.** Our redemption costs God His son. Who made God do this? Who forced His hand? No one had anything to do with it; it was God and God's alone. **He thought it up; He set it up and He finished it.** All of creation and all that we are as human beings exist for His purposes. We know that is true; however, we often don't comprehend who we are dealing with when it comes to God.

Satan obviously didn't grasp God when as Lucifer led a third of the hosts of heaven in the shortest rebellion of all time. For Jesus said,

Lu 10:18 And He said to them, "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**"

We give Satan and the demonic far too much credit; they didn't understand the cross anymore than we did. They didn't comprehend the end of things. Their foolish hearts are hardened; they are trapped in selfishness and pride and there is no salvation for them. They had the ability to choose to disobey but they didn't have the right to...while human beings were given the ability and the right through dominion.

We Are His Satisfaction

Salvation belongs to us because God provided it—there is no other answer. God saved us through His foresight in making a way of escape that would satisfy Him! The cross is not about paying off Satan that's incredibly wrong; it is about God paying off the law (His law), against us **to His satisfaction**. That to me is the most mysterious aspect of the crucifixion. **God is satisfying Himself on our behalf (through His Son who offers His life as one of us), so that we could become one with God.** Only God could come up with this!

This brings me to the real purpose of this message: God has made **us One with Him** through Jesus! This means that all of the terms I began describing in the first paragraph about Christians come to this point—**we have been made one with the Lord. This oneness makes us His precious possession**. We are precious because He set it up that it would take all that His Son is to make it happen. **There is no greater cost possible! There is no greater aspiration imaginable. There is no higher gift givable...what more could God do? What is greater than Jesus?**

God has made us joined in spirit, soul, and body with Jesus! We died to the old man in Christ on the cross so that we'd live to the new one in Him!

Ga 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

His Abiding Place!

We are His precious possession as in living in us! It is Christ in us that is the eternal mystery! It is the mystery of the gospel of grace! We are never alone ever again. Our sinful emptiness is gone! We have life living in us through the divine presence of the Spirit. We have all heard these things but I'm not sure we have genuinely understood them.

Christ Jesus Literally Lives in Us!

This means His presence is mingled with ours inside our being. When we think, when we imagine, and when we speak, it is not supposed to be just us alone ever again. We often see ourselves still separated from God as if He is hovering around us, or keeping back to the side. Or as some have described it, "God is my co-pilot." I've heard another say, "God is on my shoulder helping me." Most still see a distance of some kind between them and God's being. **The truth is: There is no distance; there is no separation.**

We have lived our Christian life as if there is a distance. We see God as helping us when we need it. We see God as answering prayers from above. We see God as paying attention to us when we want Him to. We don't realize that God *literally* never leaves

us. When we think, we think we're thinking on our own. When we plan, we think we are planning on our own. When we talk with others, we think we are talking from our own being. **This is not God's design that we are somehow independent of Him.** We think that God is like a good friend who comes and helps us, spends time with us, but has his/her own life to live. We think God is like our mate who has focused their life on ours and we have focused our life on theirs; yet, even in marriage we are still individuals who must share our lives from the outside so to speak. **This is not the case when it comes to God.**

Listen to Jesus' words describing His relationship to God: Jesus said, **"I and my Father are One (John 10:30)."** He said, "All that I say or do I have seen the Father do (John 8:38)." He said, "My words are not my own but come from the Father." Also, "My judgment is not my own (John 5:30)." He said, "When you see me you see the Father (John 14:9)." Then He prayed,

John 17:22 "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one...**"

This means in truth, that we are not alone ever. We are one with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit just as Jesus was one while upon the earth. Our spirit is joined with the Lord and our being belongs to Him. We have been crucified with Christ so that our old existence is done and to be put away (Gal. 2:20). We now live to the Lord and in the Lord. The life we now live we live with Him. In other words, when we see each other we are seeing Jesus too.

The problem is that we haven't acknowledged this nor understood it. We have been living our life as if it is ours still. When we see each other we are often just seeing the old man.

God is so close and so mingled in our spirit that when we speak He is speaking right with us. When we think spiritual things He is thinking right with us. I am actually using His life. He is actually

using my life. It is as if I am possessed by God. This possession however, is not like demonic possession. **This possession is always subject to me.** Amazing as this may sound, **I am freer and more alive with the Spirit of God possessing my life than I ever was without Him. I am more free to be me because where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty (II Cor. 3:17).**

When the scriptures say, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me... (Phil. 4:13)” **this is literally true.** The Spirit of Christ is in me to do with me all things. I may feel that I’m deciding this or that, but when I do and it is according to God’s will, Jesus has decided with me. The Holy Spirit has decided with me. I may feel that when I pray that I am praying on my own, but the truth is that the Holy Spirit prays with us and through us especially when we pray in tongues (Rom. 8:26). We may feel that when we witness or speak to others about Jesus that we are on our own (Acts 1:8). We may feel awkward; yet, if we believe the right things we were never on our own. Our words are mixing with His. His words are mixing with ours. The internal witness to all of this is peace! I am acknowledging and embracing His peace. I am being led by His Peace (Col. 3:15)!

1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, **let him speak as the oracles of God.** If anyone ministers, **let him do it as with the ability which God supplies,** that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

My Words Are His Words...

Let me put another way. When I speak to the mountain for it to move as Jesus taught us to do, I’m not using my faith I’m using His! When I pray or command something in Jesus’ name, I’m speaking but I’m actually using His words, His life, His power, and His presence. I am literally not the one doing it; but it is Christ in

me, living through me. He is speaking as I speak! All of this is subject to my will, but when I'm in His will I'm not doing it, He is doing it through me. He is my intercessor and my life is hid in Him. When I preach, teach, or witness, I'm not the one doing it—He is doing it through me. **This is what I need to see and understand so that I do not limit the Holy One in me.**

Jesus said that everything He did was done by the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus would speak but it was God speaking right with Him word for word. When Jesus healed it was the Spirit healing through Him. Likewise, when we command in His name, it is the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, **and the will of the Father literally coming out of us!** It is His power and His faith working in and through our being to do as His good will (Phip. 2:13).

When we pray and say things like, "I hope this works..." We are missing something. When we pray we must see that we are not the ones praying by ourselves but we are **using God's prayers**. I am using His presence and His words through my lips and my body. The life I now live is Christ living through me—this is the meaning of Gal. 2:20! **When I believe the right things it activates the power of God's grace in my life!**

When we lay hands on the sick...it is not just our hands but the life of Christ's hands is in us. The divine one's presence in us is transferring power to the sick resulting in restoration and recovery. We are the vessel and channel of His presence in this world. This is the meaning of this verse:

I John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: **because as he is, so are we in this world.**

We are as He is **because He is in us** as He was in Jesus when Jesus was in the world! This is a faith thing, a Spirit truth, and a revelation to empower us. **It is when we get it and understand that we will walk in confidence more and more...**

When we speak, He is speaking! When we pray, He is praying! When we act, He is acting right with us. We may think we are initiating or acting on our own, but that is wrong, that is of the flesh, and the carnal mind. **We must decide to see it like the scriptures call it!**

You and I are never acting on our own. In the past we have seen it as if we are acting on our own **and** this believing has limited God. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. As the temple we are not the source and power of our life any more God is. If we'll take this as the truth and begin to see it this way we'll realize what the scripture means when it testifies that we are not alone. This applies to what we say, speak or do according to the Spirit.

John 1: 16 **“And of his fullness have all we received,** and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, **but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

Grace and truth came to us through being born again this means when we speak it is the Spirit speaking through us. It is literally His faith, His peace, His power, being exercising in any given situation. **We need to realize that our faith and His faith are one and the same.** The gift of faith came by Jesus in the first place. We are vessels filled with grace and truth by the Spirit.

Conclusion: What is the Real Point of All of This?

It is that we would see that God is living right through us in every detail. God doesn't possess us as the demonic would and

override our will; but **God's possession is His loving fulfillment.** He loves us and will work with us in every way. We are never alone to speak, pray, ask, declare, lay hands on, or prophesy in His name...**When we act on these things as if Jesus is acting with us, we'll see that it is actually Jesus doing it through us!** We need to think right about it. See it as Jesus literally praying for it, Jesus literally laying hands on someone through your hands...and as we do this, our trust, faith, confidence will soar because we realize ***it's not on us it's on Him in us!*** Amen.

Ultimately we are using His believing, His life, His faith, His peace...***to do what we couldn't do on our own.*** We are God's precious possession to be a living place, a living temple, a living house, a body full of Jesus...and the ultimate purpose of being God's precious possession is our relationship that is full and complete making us one with the Father. **God's precious possession is our free will to accept His loving and perfect Spirit to be one with ours; to live, move and have our being! Amen.**

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