**Priceless Jewels from Scripture**

 A Brief Commentary

 by

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 Introduction

There are many portions of scripture that we seem to overlook in our bible study. Perhaps because in our busy schedules we do not take time to dig them out, or perhaps it is because we are not giving our full attention to what God’s word really says, and as a result miss some very precious truth. Some of these “Jewels” I have dealt with at more length in some of my other booklets, but I thought it would bring more attention to them if I put several short comments about each in one booklet. I believe in this day especially we need to be very vigilant in finding the truths of scripture.

In the days in which we live we see many errors being taught, and many different religions have appeared in our country. However, it is comforting to realize that Christianity is unique. In all other religions of the world the people are in some way trying to become good enough to approach God. We know that man in his sinful condition can never bring himself to a perfect state where he is acceptable to God. I say that Christianity is unique because in Christianity, and only Christianity we see God reaching down to man through the shed blood of Christ to bring man out of his sinful state. Praise God we have the **only** true religion and we have **a living Saviour.**

 **Pass Over**

*Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you,* ***and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you****, when I smite the land of Egypt.*

*Exodus 12:22,23 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.*

*For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the* ***LORD will pass over the door,*** *and* ***will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.***

In preparation for the Israelites to leave the land of Egypt, the Lord had commanded the Israelites to prepare a Passover feast. They were to take a lamb without spot or blemish. A perfect lamb, because this lamb represented our Lord Jesus Christ who is; *“The Lamb of God.” John 1:29,* *“The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:8 “A lamb without blemish and without spot*.”*1 Peter 1:19.*  They were to kill this lamb for a Passover feast, and take the blood and sprinkle it on the lintel and two side post of the door of their house for protection against the destroying plague. God was going to send a plague throughout the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn in the land in order to get Pharaoh to let the people go.

So God here, is providing protection for His people that their firstborn will not die also. If a family was too small to eat the entire lamb they were to invite their neighbors to join them. The lamb was to be roasted, never boiled, and no bone of it was to be broken. They were to eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. They were to have their loins girt, their shoes on, a staff in their hand, and eat it in haste, ready to leave.

“The Passover” was a feast of preparation for leaving Egypt, which God told them to observe yearly in remembrance of this occasion.This was a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the cross not a bone of Christ was broken. When we are saved, (partake of the Lord) we must do so completely, and be prepared to leave whenever He calls us.

It is important that we differentiate between the “Passover” and the two words “pass over.” Although we are concerned with both here. In Exodus 12:23 we see where God’s Wordsays *“.........when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the* ***LORD will pass over the door,*** *and* ***will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.*** Notice: The Lord and The Destroyer are mentioned separately. ***“The LORD will pass over the door*** “ to keep the destroyer from entering. It is not that the Lord will pass by and not destroy, but that the Lord will **pass over** the door. How does that protect those inside? One rendering of the words **pass over** in the Hebrew means to halt, or **“hover over”** as a hen would hover over her little chicks to protect them. We know that God is omnipresent, and therefore, He is able to hover over every door where He sees the blood all at the same time. I believe this is what He is speaking of here: He will not just pass by, but He will hover over to protect those inside.

It is very comforting to realize that our Lord is concerned enough with our life that He will **hover over** us and protect us. And He promises “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

 **The Shoe latchet**

*Luke 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

I have heard some say that this scripture means that John is saying that he is not worthy to stoop down and unlatch the shoe of our Lord.. While that may be true, this scripture has a much deeper meaning to the Jews. It was a custom in old Israel that when a man died the nearest of kin would “step into his shoes.” That is he would take on the responsibilities and property of his departed relative, even to marrying the dead man’s wife and raising up children so the dead man would have heirs.

However, in some cases it was impossible for the nearest of kin to do this. In that case the man would remove his shoe from his foot and give it to the next nearest kinsman who would redeem the dead mans property and family, and the kinsman who would not or could not take his responsibility was known thereafter as the man with the shoe loosed off his foot.

*Deuteronomy 25:9,10 Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house. And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.*

Also see the book of Ruth chapter 4 verses 1-8. Our Lord Jesus Christ came as kinsman redeemer of the nation of Israel, and to His “other sheep” which are you and me. He is able and He is willing to redeem us, and when He has saved us that means He has redeemed us from our sinful state, and made us part of His family.

*Romans 8:17 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.*

 **Garden Prayer**

*Luke 22:42: Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this* ***cup*** *from me: nevertheless not my will, but* ***thine,*** *be done.*

This was part of our Lord’s prayer to The Father in the Garden shortly before His arrest. He is not asking that He be freed from going to the cross. He is not trying to shirk responsibility for what He was sent to do. But the **cup** He is suffering is **His agony** over **our sin**, which He must take upon Himself. *“His sweat was as it were great drops of blood.”* He was near death from that suffering, and if He died there He would not have been able to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. But He wants The Fathers’s will, so He prayed *“If thou be willing, remove* ***this cup*** *from me.”* We see in the Scripture below where God sends an angel to strengthen Him that He may be able to go to the cross and complete our salvation.

*Luke 22:43-44 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven,* ***strengthening him****. And being in an* ***agony*** *he prayed more earnestly: and**his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

This took place in the garden, shortly before His betrayal and arrest. Can you imagine what it would be like for us, if He hadn’t suffered the **cup** **of the cross?** If God the Father would have said “I changed my mind, I don’t want you to die for sinners after all.” Praise God; He **never** changes His mind. *Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

 **The Fall of Man**

Our modern humanistic teachers have followed the teaching of evolution who teach that man began at the bottom of the moral ladder and is slowly climbing to the top. However, all evidence shows exactly opposite. Man is getting morally worse and worse.

Actually man began at the very top and fell to the bottom. God placed man in the beautiful Garden of Eden. No work to do, only dress and keep the garden. God Himself came and walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the garden. Never since, has any man had such a privilege.

Then Eve met the serpent, and she listened to him. Some may say “serpents can’t talk.” Evidently it was not unusual at that time, for Eve was not surprised at the serpent speaking to her. Actually the serpent was the fallen angel “Lucifer” and had not been condemned to crawling on his belly until after this. Genesis 3:14 Notice the serpent was very subtle: (subtle=shrewd, crafty, sly.)

*Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made*..............

The serpent started by quoting God. *“Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*

Let’s notice Eve’s answer: *“God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it,* ***neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”***Already she changed somewhat what God had said.

*Genesis 2:16,17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:* ***But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.***

Eve said : “Ye shall not eat of it, **neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”**  She added “neither shall ye touch it” and then changed “thou shalt surely die” to “lest ye die” sort of dulling the point of the needle a little. Does that seem we are splitting hairs, after all it is only a little change. That is what happens when we allow the world to change our thought just a little (very subtly) until the entire mater is changed.

*Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

The serpent now very subtly changes his tactics, and tries to put doubt in Eve’s mind by saying God really isn’t telling her the truth. Speaking of the devil in John 8:44 Jesus said***“.....for he is a liar, and the father of it.”***

And the serpent succeeded in his deceit**:**

*Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Whenever we doubt God, **it is sin,** and sin multiplies. In the scriptures sin is likened to leaven or yeast you would use in baking bread.It continues to grow or expand until all is consumed with it. *Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.*

As a result of disbelieving God and believing the serpent Adam and Eve lost their position before God. They were driven from the garden, and from the presence of God.

As a result we are born sinners, having inherited that sin from them.

The psalmistspeaks of that here in Psalm 51, we inherited the sin of Adam & Eve.

*Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Since Adam was the federal head of mankind,. His sin passed down to us, we are born sinners, that is why we sin. Our only hope is the salvation offered by Christ through His death, shed blood, and resurrection. Whereby He paid the penalty for us and imputed to us His righteousness.

 **Lost & Found**

*Luke 15:14-24 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

*Matthew 18:12,13 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.*

Notice here, the one who is happiest is the one who found the lost one.We should be very pleased that Christ found us; that God and the Angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner comes to Christ.

*Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance*

It is Joyful to our Lord when He presents us before the Father in Heaven.

*Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*

*Luke 10:19,20 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you;* ***but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.***

 *1Peter 1:7,8 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

 **Misunderstood Scripture**

There are two portions of scripture here in Hebrews that have given commentators headaches for centuries. Both this one and in Hebrews chapter ten, and another in Hebrews chapter six. No two commentators seem to agree completely on the meanings of these scriptures. I think perhaps over fifty years of teaching and Bible study have given me some insight into these scriptures.

*Hebrews 10:26-29 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that* ***despised Moses' law*** *died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy,* ***who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?***

This portion of Scripture is concerned with those who have heard the truth, but are not saved. “After we have received the **knowledge of the truth**.” Not after we have come to salvation. There is only one sacrifice “Christ.” If we **reject** Him, **despise** His sacrifice, there is **nothing else left** to pay for our sin. We are then treading underfoot the finished work of Christ. There is nothing left but fiery judgement. This often happens to those who want to do something themselves to earn their salvation. They cannot believe that trusting Christ by faith alone is enough, they want to do something to make themselves presentable to God, thus rejecting, and despising the finished work of our Lord.

I heard a story once of a Christian farmer who had been trying to win a friend to the Lord. His friend was a carpenter. Whenever the farmer witnessed to him, the carpenter always said, faith alone cannot be enough, I must do something to earn my salvation. One day the farmer called his friend and asked him to make a gate for his barnyard. The carpenter did so, and brought it over to the farm and installed it. It was a beautiful piece of craftsmanship, so the carpenter went up to the farmers’s house and asked his friend to come and see the new gate. The farmer came down to the barnyard, but on the way picked up his axe. When he saw the beautiful gate, he said, “I must put my marks on the gate also” and he proceeded to chop on the gate until he had destroyed it. His carpenter friend protested, “You have destroyed my beautiful craftsmanship” “Yes” the farmer said “and that is exactly what you are doing to our Lord’s finished work, when you try to do something yourself.”

When Christ (on the cross) said *“it is finished,”* God’s plan of salvation was completed, and anything man may try to add to that is an abomination to God.

This scripture here in Hebrews chapter six is perhaps even more confusing to some:

*Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,* ***If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame****.*

What at first seems obvious to most readers is that this means you could lose your salvation. This is what many of our Armenian friends tell us. So let’s look at it logically. If this means we can lose our salvation then no one could ever remain saved, all would be on our way to hell. Is there a Christian among us who hasn’t sinned? **And they could never be saved again**. *“It is impossible”* Yet Jesus came *“....to seek and save that which was lost*.”

What has evidently brought this statement about was the fact that even in during the time of the Apostles many believers didn’t understand God’s Sovereignty.

First it is speaking of Christians “those who were enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift and partakers of the Holy Ghost.” It cannot be unsaved who came to the very threshold of salvation and turned away as some teach. For “these were partakers” Therefore, they had been saved. “**If they shall fall away...”** It doesn’t say they fell away. The author of Hebrews here is presenting **a hypothetical situation**, pointing out that **if** they **could** fall away they **could never** again be restored because Christ would have to be crucified all over again, and His first work would be put to shame. This is not telling the Christians that if they fall in sin they will lose their salvation never to regain it. But rather it is assuring us that salvation is something that is once for all, once we are really saved we are secure in Christ’s finished work. Man cannot hang on to God to keep his salvation, God holds on to man.

*Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*

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