

your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God."

God's word must be valued more than all of the money in the world. It must be the true treasure of our hearts. One may ask, "How can a person learn to cherish and value God's word more than all the money in the world?" The answer is simple, we need to study it everyday. Let us always cherish God's word by studying it and meditating on its principles. Today, people will become involved in all kinds of schemes which they think will bring them closer to God. We hear about these retreats into the mountains so that they can become closer to God, or so they think. People wear these arm bands that say "What Would Jesus Do?" to help

them be always mindful of God's word. We hear of those who go on retreats called the "Road to Emmaus" so they can get closer to God and get more out of His word. When actually all that we have to do is pick up the Bible, read it, learn how to study it, and diligently seek to apply it and live it in their everyday lives. We as Christians should always value God's word as being very precious, as we would a priceless jewel in our lives. **Proverbs 18:15** sums it all up, *"The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."*

As one grows older, God's word will taste as sweet as honey and will comfort his soul, knowing that our reward in heaven will never be cut off as seen in Proverbs 24:13-14.

By Bill Davis

Welcome Visitors!

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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How Do You Value God's Word?

Years ago, when I had a lot of time on my hands, I would go around town to garage sales looking for bargains. Many times I would find a whole lot of nothing, but there were times when I found a real bargain. At many of these garage sales there would be a Bible or two just thrown down into a pile with other used books. Whenever I would find a Bible for sale I would buy it and take it home to be put to good use or perhaps give it away to those who needed it. Back in those days, we went to Old Mexico frequently and would take a load of Bibles to the people down there. These were mostly poor people and they were really thankful to be receiving a free Bible. You know, over in this country, we see Bibles in stores all over the city. The question is, what is God's word worth to us as a society and then to us as Christians? What is God's word worth to me? Do we value the Bible as God's word and do we cherish the Bible as more valuable than the whole world? Do we treasure God's word as seen in **Matthew 13:44-46**. *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and*

for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. " Another example is found in **Proverbs 3:13-15...** "*Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver; And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her."*

You see, all of the gold in the world cannot even come close to the value of God's word. God's word has the power to give wisdom and the power to save lives. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (**Rom. 1:16**) offering us the way to know how to be forgiven or our sins. Most of all, God's word gives us hope that we may be a part of God's family and then dwell with Him in heaven along with His son Jesus for all eternity. When I see a Bible in a garage sale, it really saddens me because instead of

cherishing the Bible, we have grown weary of it and have thrown it away. I know that today we live in a throw-away society. We don't often keep things like we should nor do we value things as we should. The Bible is inspired by God, not man. About 40 men wrote the Bible as the Holy Spirit directed them. **II Peter 1:20-21;** "*knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* These men used the words given to them by the Holy Spirit as we see in **1 Thessalonians 2:13;** "*For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."* Therefore, the Bible is inspired, that is God-breathed as seen in **II Timothy 3:15;** "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in*

righteousness," The unity of the Bible is one proof of its inspiration. These forty men lived over a span of 1600 years and had no possible way to confer with one another. They came from various backgrounds and social levels; they even wrote in different languages. Yet the Bible is without contradiction! Had the Bible been the work of 40 minds it would surely be filled with conflicting human opinions. Its unity proves that it is from one mind, the mind of God.

As we can see, the Bible is the very word of God. Therefore, we should read it, love it, and cherish it more than all the money in the world. God's word should be sweet as honey to us, that is to say we should savor it everyday as seen in **Psalms 19:7-10;** "*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The Statues of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true*

and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."

Since the Bible is God's word we should respect, care for protect it. After all, the floor, a garage sale or "file 13" is no place to put God's word. So, the next time you read your Bible, remember that men led by the Holy Spirit wrote it so that we could read, learn and grow. The question is, what value do we as Christians put on God's word? A good example of one who valued the world more than he valued God is found in **Luke 12:16-21;** "*Then He spoke a parable to them saying: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night*