

Don't Devalue Your Pearls

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Nineteen forty three was a year that found most of the world at war, and people every where were being affected by this tragic time in our history. Nazi Germany had already annihilated 6 million Jews. All across Europe churches were being burned, and crosses were being replaced with swastikas. German soldiers were goose-stepping their way across the European landscape leaving death and destruction in their path. Sorrow and tragedy reigned, yet out of this chaos, a great hunger for the truth of the Word of God was born. More Bibles were published and distributed in 1943 than in any year previous, and around the world, God was rewarding this hunger by revealing the truths of His Word to individuals and churches. These revelations were creating revival, and leading people into a real relationship with Jesus Christ.

God alone chooses who enters His Kingdom, and who does not. He has told us that many are called but few chosenⁱ. He has hidden the revelations of His Word from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto the babesⁱⁱ. The word *revealed* means to *make known something that has been hidden or secret*. He has kept these from some, and made them known to others. What determines whether we do or do not receive these revelations is our hunger for God, and our willingness to let the Word of God be right in every situation.

The Apostle Paul, whom God used to write 14 New Testament books, received the gospel by revelationⁱⁱⁱ. God is building his church on the revelation of who he is^{iv}, and none can know Him, except by revelation^v. Paul taught us that Christians are established in the gospel by revelation^{vi}, and if there is any area where they are in disagreement with God, God will *reveal* it to them^{vii}. Even the future blessings promised to those who love God can only be understood by revelation^{viii}.

In Ephesians 1:15-16 the Apostle Paul gives us some understanding regarding the importance of God's revelations. Notice in verse 15, it was *after* he had learned of their *faith in the Lord Jesus* and their *love unto all the saints*, that he prayed for them to receive the *spirit of wisdom and revelation*. In verse 18, he prays for the *eyes of their understanding* to be enlightened, why? So they would understand what is *the hope of their calling*, and the *riches of the glory of his inheritance*. And in verse 19, Paul prays that this spirit of revelation would cause them to understand *the*

exceeding greatness of his power toward them! From our very first encounter with Jesus Christ to our deepest understanding of the blessings of God, all comes by revelation. Understanding who God is; understanding salvation; understanding the doctrines of Christian living and holiness can only come by revelation! We should love and care for every revelation that we receive from God! And keep our heart filled with hunger and surrender that we might receive more. In the first 23 verses of Matthew 13, Jesus taught the parable of the Sower. In His explanation of this parable, which begins in verse 10, He taught that the seed being sown was the Word of God, and the different types of soil represent the willingness of an individual to receive the Word of God. In verse 11, He said that it was given to some to receive the Word, and to others, it was not given. God reveals His word to whom he chooses! Revelations! In verse 12, He said *whoever has will be given more and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken* (NIV). Whoever places great value on the revelations they have received will be given more, and those who do not value their revelations, God will take them from them.

In the parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14-30, we find this same language. A man about to take a far journey gave *talents* unto his servants. To one he gave five, to another two, and to another one. The servants who received five talents and two talents doubled their Lord's investment in them, but he who had received one talent buried it in the ground. When the Lord returned, he was pleased with the servants who had increased his investment, but with the man who had not valued his talent, but rather hid it in the ground, he was displeased. This servant had buried his talent, therefore reckoning it dead, and the Lord took his talent from him and gave it to the servant who had ten. A talent is a coin, or a sum of money. And although it was talents that his master delivered to his servants, in verse 14, it states he delivered to them his *goods*. Is it possible that these talents or goods represent the revelations that the lord has given to us? Is it possible that if we reckon them dead, and do not place a great price on our revelations, the Lord will take them from us and give them to one who does? This is the same language we find in the Parable of the Sower which is about how we *receive* the Word of the Lord. When God gives us a revelation from His Word, he has given us a treasure of unspeakable worth!

In Matthew 7:6 Jesus tells us, *Neither cast your pearls before swine*. This ties in with Jesus' parable of a Pearl of Great Price in Matthew 13:45-46. He spoke of a *merchant man seeking goodly (valuable) pearls*, not "pearl", but *pearls*, plural! When we treat the revelations of God has given us as if they were *pearls* of great price, God will give us more! When the merchant found a *goodly pearl*, he considered it worth all that he had. Each time God reveals to us a doctrine of salvation, or

holiness, it is worth all we have..... a *pearl of great price!* A gem of inestimable worth!

Do you know a Christian, or perhaps a preacher, who at one time received revelations from God and loved them; lived them; preached them? Someone who even counted them of great price, and yet today they no longer believe and preach what God gave them? Is it possible that they reckoned their revelations dead and buried them just as the unprofitable servant did with his talent, and that the Lord has taken them and given them to another? Even to the point where they no longer believe the most basic of salvation doctrines? If they have made that choice, only a miracle from God can bring them back. But what about those who have not gone back on *all* their revelations? What about those who are not as strong as they once were on certain doctrines of the church? Or certain doctrines of holiness? Is it possible that they have begun the grievous process of losing all that God has given them? Of having their revelations taken away one by one? It is a sad day when men and women *begin* to devalue their pearls, when their pearls no longer glisten with luster they once had. Everything we get from God comes by revelation, and they come because we are hungry for truth, and our heart is open. That is a door we can never shut!

In Acts chapter 16, we read about the first European convert, a woman named Lydia. She had gone to the riverside to pray, and it was there she met the apostle Paul, who spoke to her about Jesus Christ. The Bible says in verse 14, that this *certain woman* Lydia *heard them*. Why? The Lord had *opened* her heart! And when her heart was opened, she was able to receive revelation! We receive the doctrine of being born again because of revelation! We grow in the Lord because of revelation! We know of God's blessings because of revelation! And we receive revelations because God has opened our heart! It is a door we should never shut. We must always esteem the revelations God has given us as Pearls of Great Price!

ⁱ Matthew 22:14

ⁱⁱ Matthew 11:25

ⁱⁱⁱ Galatians 1:11-12, Ephesians 3:3

^{iv} Matthew 16:16-18

^v Luke 10:22

^{vi} Romans 16:25

^{vii} Philippians 3:15

^{viii} 1Corinthians 2:9-10