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## *The Preciousness of Christ*

“Unto you therefore who believe He is precious.” 1 Peter 2:7

A felt conviction of the preciousness of the Savior has ever been regarded by enlightened ministers of the gospel as constituting a scriptural and unmistakable evidence of the existence of divine life in the soul; and in moments when neither time nor circumstance would admit of the close scrutiny of a theological creed, or a nice analysis of spiritual feelings and emotions, the one and simple inquiry upon which the whole matter is made to hinge has been: “What is your experience of the worth of the Savior? Is Christ precious to your heart?” And the answer to this question has been to the examiner the test and the measure of the soul’s spiritual and vital change. And how proper it is that it should be so. In proportion as the Holy Spirit imparts a real, intelligent sense of personal sinfulness, there will be the heart’s appreciation of the value, sufficiency, and preciousness of the Lord Jesus. An enlightened and thorough conviction of the nature and aggravation of the disease will enable a physician to form a just conception of the remedial process by which it may be arrested and cured.

We estimate the force of an impelling power by the strength of the body it propels. Thus, as the conviction of our lost and undone condition deepens, as sin's "exceeding sinfulness" unveils, as the purity and extent of God's law opens, as the utter helplessness and impotence of self is forced upon the mind, the glory, the worth, the suitableness, and the preciousness of Jesus will, through the teaching of the Spirit, present itself vividly to the mind and heart as constituting the only foundation and hope of the soul!

The Bible recognizes but two specific and distinctive characters—the sinner and the Savior; and all others are but modifications of these. The saint is but the sinner converted, justified, pardoned, adopted, sanctified, saved, and glorified. And all the official relationships sustained by Christ in the economy of salvation are but so many varied and beautiful forms of the one Savior, of whom it is said, "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Thus, then, as you feel your sinfulness you will estimate the fitness and suitableness of the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. There will be a perfect agreement between your consciousness of guilt and your believing apprehension of the excellence of the atonement to meet your case. Your sinnership and Christ's Saviorship will harmonize and dovetail in exact and beautiful fitness and proportion.