

Gold!

Ponder: The relative value of gold.

Scripture: "Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold!" (Psa. 119:127, NKJV).

At this writing, gold sells for over \$1700 per ounce! Scripture first mentions gold in Gen. 2:11. It seems always to have been a valued commodity. "Gold fever" sent countless people to California, Alaska, and other places where they hoped to "strike it rich."

God, in His word, warns against trusting in material wealth, be it gold or any other variety. The godly patriarch Job said, "If I have made gold my hope, or said to fine gold, 'you are my confidence,' . . . This also would be an iniquity deserving of judgment, for I would have denied God who is above" (Job 31:24-28). Jesus Himself cautioned, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God" (Mk. 10:24).

Desirable as gold might be, there are things far more valuable! The Psalmist wrote, "Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold" (Psa. 119:127). Fine gold would be the most pure, what we might call "twenty-four carat" gold. But God's word surpasses even the purest gold in value.

God's word produces faith in our hearts (Rom. 10:17). And that faith surpasses gold in value. Peter taught that one of the reasons God allows trials to afflict us is so "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:7). Yes, your faith is more precious than refined gold! The same apostle wrote "to those who have obtained like precious faith with us" (2 Pet. 1:1). Your faith is precious to God and ought to be precious to you. It is equally as precious as the faith of an apostle!

We usually think of gold as being indestructible; but when the Lord returns, the entire material creation, including gold, will pass away (2 Pet. 3:10). Let's recognize the surpassing value of God's word and the faith it produces.

Hymn: "How Precious Is The Book Divine"

Prayer: Father, we praise and thank You for Your precious word, and for the precious faith that it produces in us. Help us not to be materialistic, but to value Your word supremely. In Jesus' name, Amen.