

Malachi 3:17

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels

What a precious verse of Scripture! It's all the more precious when you consider the times in which God made this declaration. There was widespread apostasy. God's people of Israel and Judah came to the altar in the Temple and were heard to say, (1:13) Behold, what a weariness is it! (3:14) It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance.

... But even in the darkest of nights, ... God has His little stars shining, ... and so it was here too. Though the greater majority of the children of Israel had travelled away from God He had kept onto Himself a people that were precious to Him and He was precious to them.

The national religion had taken the place of the people's relationship with God ... for all but a few. Look at how God described them in v.16:

they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Yes, our God regards quality more than quantity and He looks upon those whom He has chosen and saved by grace as "my jewels".

THE COMPARISON

- * The Lord compares His people to jewels.
- * As far as you can go back into history men have sought after precious stones.
- * Gold is precious, but there's something about a diamond that recreates its sparkle in the eye of the admirer.
- * It can be so small that you can hold it in the palm of your hand, ... it's so precious.

- * When you look into the window of the jeweller's you see the price they ask for the ring that has as its main element the diamond set.
- * That's how God described His people in the day of Malachi, ... when there was apostasy and a falling away, ...
- * God described His people as [my jewels](#).
- * So precious were they to Him that in order to purchase them He paid the supreme price of His only-begotten Son.
- * As the Lord Jesus considered the price of His jewels in the Garden of Gethsemane He counted them with great sweats of blood, ... and at Calvary He paid the price.
- * Indeed he sets great value on those who are His, - His jewels.
- * What else can it mean when the child of God is described as a "jewel"?
- * Jewels are extremely hard and durable; jewels will scratch glass, some of them will cut it.
- * What does that say about this description of the Christian?
- * ... When God takes hold of a man or woman, boy or girl, and brings them to saving faith that person immediately becomes incorruptible, free from sin and destined to last/endure.
- * Archaeologists can tell you that when they have explored sites and found various treasures, they can find in amongst the rust and the dirt diamonds that have never lost their shine.
- * The truly born-again believer is formed out of a constitution that is incorruptible, and lives and abides forever.
- * The Word says [I make up my jewels](#); ... and how can God ever make anything other than that which is perfect!
- * He doesn't make a jewel that shines for a little while and then loses its gloss, - such a diamond was never a creation of God in the first place!
- * God's jewels are precious to Him, and they are hard/durable, ... they last!
- * And then too, they are prized for their value.
- * When a light shines onto them ... *what a sparkle!*
- * Doesn't that remind you of a Christian too?

- * God's jewel, - diamond, - reflects the light that shines from God, ... *isn't that what a Christian does!*
- * Consider the Lord Jesus, - even the Roman soldier that crucified Him had to acknowledge that there was something special about Him.
- * ... the great crowds in Galilee *flocked* to listen to Him.
- * ... from Jesus Christ shone the radiance of God; isn't that what a true believer does?
- * The breastplate of the High Priest was square and embroidered with gold,
 - * On it were 12 different, sparkling, precious stones (diamonds) set in gold, with the names of the twelve tribes engraved in them,
 - * ... every name engraved in a separate precious stone.
- * I have no doubt that the Word of God points forward to the breastplate of our Great High Priest and shines up each of the individual jewel-stones as being altogether precious to Him.
- * The Christian ought to be marked as a special beauty for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- * It doesn't matter the size of your bank balance, or your humble background, - a jewel is still precious regardless of its setting.
- * How better could we further describe the Christian within this context than the phrase "the beauty of holiness".
- * It's a gift of God, - a work of God, - for every believer.
- * Something else too, the Christian is not just a jewel, - but a precious jewel (cf. v.17b).
- * There are only a few diamonds in the world, known as paragons; a paragon is a diamond that is 600 carats or more.
- * Not just an 'ordinary' diamond, and neither is the child of God just anything 'ordinary'.
- * You are special to God, ... for you are the product of God, - you are precious to Him because you are His!
- * You couldn't have made of your life what God has made of it.
- * Look where He took you from and where He has taken you to!

- * True, ... many a person has 'made it' as far as the standards of the world is concerned, but in God's eyes their riches don't count!
- * What a difference to the believer!
- * Some people think they can become a Christian by being baptized or by joining a church, ... not at all!
- * How far do you think you would get if you sat from now to eternity trying to shine up a piece of coal, ... you would never make it into a precious jewel.
- * To make the jewel of which we are thinking about this evening is God's work, ... Christ alone!
- * Something else too. Jewels are of all kinds, all shapes and sizes, they are found all over the world, ... and that's the Redeemed Church of the Lord Jesus.
- * Is. 13:12, [I will make a man more precious than fine gold.](#)

THE COMPOSITION

The making up of the jewels

- * This is an ongoing process that will someday finally be completed.
- * Some of God's jewels haven't been discovered yet, - I trust here in this church we are in the process of searching for them, - in the Sunday School, the C.E., the Y.F., through every department of our church and outside of it too.
- * People need to be saved, ... otherwise they are heading towards a lost eternity in hell.
- * And then there are many jewels that have been found only recently and they are not yet polished.
- * They haven't been saved all that long, but they are still precious gems; they need to be [made up](#).
- * Many, too, of the Lord's jewels are only partly polished, - we all need to be smoothed and honed through the process the Bible describes as sanctification.
- * When we are presented before the Throne in glory there will be no defilement, no sin, no corrosion, no corruption,
- * ... but that makes us also think about some of the jewels that used to shine and they have become darkened again; what has happened?

- * There is many a jewel that has lost the 'shine', - a backslider, - God loves you, Christ died on Calvary for you, the Holy Spirit indwelt you but you are not living as you ought to be living.
- * You are still Christ's but you are at a distance. Remember, ... you are precious to Him, ... you are one of His jewels, ... Come back to Him again!

THE COMPLETION

- * The privilege of being found among them, **they shall be mine**
- * This wasn't all Israel, neither is it all the world, - that's what you call 'universalism' (universal salvation).
- * It's a privilege to belong to Christ, to be part of His Family, to be counted as His jewel.
- * If you are saved, and if you are precious to nobody else, you're precious to God. ... Rejoice in that!
- * It is a work that God began in your life and He will complete it for His glory.
- * But I can't help but look at another side to this.
- * Just over nineteen years ago Pearl and I were part of a mission team to a town near the south of France.
- * After 'she had twisted my arm so far up my back' 😊 we decided to go into a beautiful jeweller's shop on the main street and choose an engagement ring.
- * Of course it had to have diamonds, - none of your cheap stuff!
- * So the assistant brought all the engagement rings and showed us them, - Pearl chose one that was beautiful, a ruby surrounded by diamonds.
- * Anyhow, months passed, we were married, and for some reason or another we went into a jeweller's shop in Belfast; and just out of curiosity we priced the ring, ... only to be told that it was just an imitation, ... *we were done!*
- * The French jeweller had sold us a dud! Worthless! Without real value! *We were done!*
- * You see, Pearl and I were deceived. We didn't know that the engagement ring didn't contain real diamonds. ... but the *jeweller* in Belfast knew!

- * Let's bring this into the spiritual ...
- * You might deceive the Minister, the Deacons or the congregation into thinking you are a Christian, - you might even deceive yourself, ... but One that you won't deceive is God!
- * He's knows, ... [Nahum 1: 7 He knoweth them that trust in him.](#)
- * [II Tim. 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.](#)
- * He knows the true from the false.
- * If you are not saved, ... you'll never fool Him, ... no matter how good you try to be.
- * You see, these jewels are a prize, ... and bought at a price.
- * The high priest wore the jewels on his breastplate, ... close to his heart, - that's how precious the great High Priest considers His jewels.
- * Yes, what if you are not saved? Well, here's what Jesus said,
 - * [Lk. 3: 8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.](#)
- * When He was saying this He was standing alongside the River Jordan, and He looked at the stones, and told the people standing around, "God can pick you up, - just an ordinary stone, - and He can change you into a beautiful, precious jewel. ... God is able to do that.
- * It doesn't matter how dirty, or how worn, or how jagged a stone, - God can transform it into a jewel; ... He can do it in an instant.
- * He transforms lives through the work of His Son on the cross where He died for the "[whosoever believeth](#)".

CONCLUSION.

- * There's **THE COMPARISON**, - where God compares His children to precious jewels.
- * There's **THE COMPOSITION**, - the making of the jewels.
- * There's **THE COMPLETION**, - "[they shall be mine](#)".
- * And it's all the work of God's grace *alone!*