

Len Holzapfel God's Jewels – What Are They? 24th October 2015

God's Jewels, have you ever thought to yourself what are they, what are God's jewels? Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield's song recorded, when he was on the International Space Station, is called: "**Jewel in the Night**".

I thought that I would give you a few quotes from those who have seen earth from outer space. I find their comments so encouraging and believe their special in site may inspire those people out there who do not believe in Our Great God.

I found it refreshing to read their comments about this magnificent jewel on which we are at present sojourning and just like Abraham, who was waiting for the great city with the foundations of which God is the architect and builder, I hope that their comments may change the minds of people about just Who created this beautiful Jewel and all of the incredible universe beyond.

Joseph Allen astronaut from the USA is quoted as saying "The sun truly ``comes up like thunder," and it sets just as fast. Each sunrise and sunset lasts only a few seconds, however, in that time, you see at least eight different bands of colour come and go, from a brilliant red to the brightest and deepest blue. You see sixteen sunrises and sixteen sunsets **every day** you're in space. No sunrise **or sunset** is ever the same. I did not realise that astronauts in space stations, circling this earth see 16 sunrises and sunsets a day and in addition I did not realise that the sunrise and sunsets they see have an 8-band rainbow with extra brilliant colours compared with the ordinary rainbow, we see which apparently has just 7 colours.

Edgar Mitchell astronaut from the USA said quote: "Suddenly, from behind the rim of the moon, in long, slow-motion moments of immense majesty, there emerges a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate sky-blue sphere laced with slowly swirling veils of white, rising gradually like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. It takes more than a moment to fully realize this is earth, this is home. My view of our planet was a glimpse of divinity. Wow all I can say this jewel we live on must be truly magnificent". James Irwin astronaut USA said quote: "The Earth reminded us of a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got further and further away it diminished in size. Finally, it shrank to the size of a marble, but the most beautiful marble you can ever imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart. Seeing this has to change a man, has to make a man appreciate the creation of God and the love of God".

I would love to stand in outer space and look at this Jewel. I know that our Great God looks at it every moment of every day because this Jewel, in space is not just a jewel,

this jewel in space is God's special **Jewel chest** where He keeps and polishes His most very **precious Jewels**.

Remember when you were young and watched the old pirate movies and watched the pirates chase after and then board another ship and then with a lot of sword fighting, they looted the ship and stole its precious cargo chests, **full of gold and precious jewels**.

What about movies about sunken treasure, in which the divers dove down to an old shipwreck and recovered from the shipwreck huge wooden chests, which when opened in the light of day revealed a chest full of precious gemstones, rings and pearl necklaces. Also scattered here and there was a signet ring with a precious stone in it and knives with jewel encrusted handles. Do you Remember those movies?

I used to dream that I was a diver diving down to old shipwrecks searching for treasure of gold silver and precious stones like rubies diamonds emeralds and pearls and gold cups encrusted with precious stones, to drink from and golden plates to eat from. I think that maybe we have all had dreams like that when we were young and then there were movies and books about fabulous treasure like Treasure Island and Robinson Crusoe used to ignite our imaginations. God gave us an amazing mind with which we can be anyone who we want to be and do anything that we wish to do and what a marvellous gift our Great God has given to us.

As I walked past a jewellery store, at Loganholme, a while ago, I noticed a beautiful ruby ring and it had a matching ruby necklace and 12 slightly larger rubies. It looked magnificent, however, the price tag was also magnificent over \$15,000 dollars - magnificent.

I thought to myself as I looked at the ring and necklace if only in my dreams, I had slipped one of those ruby rings and ruby necklaces into my pocket, I would be a rich man today, because the Rubies I dreamt about were at least **10 times bigger than these little pebbles**.

Have you ever thought about how gem stones are created, I haven't? My desire was to find them Each gem stone has a unique beginning just like you and me.

We don't have to be reminded that diamonds rubies, sapphires, pearls and emeralds are all known as precious gems. Next to the diamond, did you know that the ruby is the next hardest gemstone the ruby is also resistant to acids and other harmful substances. Because large gem-quality rubies are very rare, the value of a fine ruby may **quadruple** that of a similar quality diamond. I did not know that so ladies you should consider rubies not diamonds as they are your best friend.

What a pity someone didn't tell Marylyn Monroe that. Rubies and sapphires are both composed of corundum which is the crystalline form of aluminium oxide and they differ only in small amounts of colour producing minerals. Chromium gives rubies their characteristic red colour with higher concentrations producing darker shades which makes sense to me. Aluminium oxide crystals not containing chromium are called sapphires; and they come in many hues or shades including blue, yellow, green, pink, purple and colourless forms. The Ruby is even harder than steel therefore it is an excellent bearing material for metal shafts in devices like watches, compasses and electric meters. Rubies have exceptional wave transmitting properties covering the range from short wave ultraviolet through the visible light spectrum to longwave infrared. This makes them ideal for use in laser technology.

Natural rubies have been mined for thousands of years. In many cultures these gems have been prized not only for their beauty but also for their supposed supernatural powers. It was commonly believed that the ruby's red colour came from fire trapped inside of the stone. Ancient Hindus believed that rubies could make water boil and early Greeks thought the crystals could melt wax.

In other cultures, such as Burmese and Native American the ruby was thought to protect the wearer because of its blood-like colour. Therefore, the Ruby family of gemstones is a prized and unique family of gemstones to own.

Now Diamonds are made from carbon but not ordinary carbon, highly chemically organized carbon. Highly organized carbon is something that geologists are still in the dark about and indicates that they are still guessing about how diamonds are formed in the earth estimated to be formed 1 billion to 3 billion years ago. That is according to a recent study in the Nature Journal which wrote about what the scientists think is the recipe for making a diamond which follows something like this:

1. Bury this highly organised carbon 100 miles deep into the Earth.
2. Then heat it to about 2,200 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Then Squeeze it under pressure of 725,000 pounds per square inch.
4. Then Quickly rush it upwards towards the Earth's surface to cool then you have a diamond.

Diamonds are virtually fireproof. To burn a diamond, it must be heated to 1292 degrees Fahrenheit. The word carat comes from the carob a Mediterranean tree whose seed was used for centuries as the standard of weighing precious stones. Well, there you go, you just had a science lesson about how and where some precious stones come from and according to the scientists it's just like baking a cake if you follow the recipe.

We read in Malachi 3:16-17 **Those fearing the Lord spoke together, each man to his neighbour, and the Lord listened and heard, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who**

feared the Lord, and for those who thought upon His name, and they shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day that I will make up My own **special jewels**, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him, then you shall return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between the ones who serve God, and the one who does not serve Him.

To fear someone means that you are afraid or scared, however, I, deep inside, believe that this verse means that we are to be fearful of God's judgment **if** we have done wrong and have not repented, just like any child should be scared of getting a spanking from his father even though the child loves his or her father.

God is our **Father** He is our dear **Abba** and **we as His little children** should **love Him and obey Him as any obedient child should love and obey their father all the days of their life.** We can still love and be fearful of our heavenly Father at the same time because we know that our heavenly Father is merciful. We know that He loves us, and we know that we are very special to Him and that we are like extremely precious jewels to Him.

1 John 4:18-19 tells us very plainly **there is no fear in the love of God, rather, perfect love casts out fear because fear is torment, and the one who fears has not been made perfect in the love of God, we love Him because He loves us first.** So If we love someone unconditionally then we should not be scared of them because seeing them walk through the door **should be a joy to us not** a torment that is how I feel we should feel about our Heavenly Father we should **love Him unconditionally** and obey Him because He is far wiser than we will ever be and He loves us because we are also told that **He loved us first.**

Jewels are precious things and the Hebrew word for jewels means a treasure. And a treasure is made up of costly things like gold pearls diamonds and rubies.

To God we Christians are **His jewels** His own special treasure! and we read this in **Exodus 19:5** **Now therefore, if you will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people, for all the Earth is Mine.** The King James says peculiar treasure the word, "peculiar" as used in the KJV has a different meaning than Today's modern meaning of peculiar today's peculiar means to be odd or weird. I suppose Christians according to this world's estimate of how people should behave, and act is peculiar odd and weird.

In the old King James version, the word, "Peculiar" meant, "something special." and this is exactly what God wanted Israel to be to Him something special something set apart something to be claimed only by God Himself **and no one else.**

That is why God said to Israel you are to be My special treasure **My peculiar** treasure. Once again, I must say, many people totally disregard the condition or special **IF clause** contained in verse 5 because God **did** place a condition there and that is **if** we are to be

His special treasure then **we will obey His voice**, not **might obey His voice**. Many people simply believe or are taught that to come to God means that you just have to call yourself a Christian and you do not have to do **or are not required to do any more than that**. Sorry to be a stick in the mud and the one to tell you, however, **you are so wrong**.

Remember what I said earlier a diamond does not begin as a diamond, as it takes a special process to make a diamond just as it takes a special process to make someone **a true Christian**.

Now you can tell a true diamond from a fake diamond with a few simple tests. But remember this first, God can tell a true Christian without any testing because God knows where His special jewels are and God knows what is in **your heart** and again, guess what **you cannot deceive God** like you may deceive others **here** on Earth.

I am also sorry to say ladies there are many fake diamonds in a jewellery shop and there are many fake diamonds being sold to customers as being real diamonds just as there are **many** fake Christians in Church passing themselves off as real Christians. **Philippians 2:14-16** says **Do all things without complaints and disputes, so that you may be blameless and without offence, innocent children of God in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. Holding forth the Word of life, that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, nor laboured in vain.**

The crooked perverted ungodly and unrepentant are the fake gems and that we - you and I **are the real gems** because **we shine** and **we sparkle**, we stand out like the **stars in the night sky** and are like the beautiful stars which sparkle. Remember diamonds are not common or they would be found everywhere just in the same way that the true believers are **scarce and rare** because there are only a few **a few true Christians to be found who have gone through the process of grinding and sanding and washing and polishing and then have been and are being gently and lovingly shaped into a beautiful living jewel, of great price to God**. Barbara presented a wonderful message about entering by the Narrow gate a while ago let me refresh your memory **Matthew 7:13-14** teaches us the following:

Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it, for narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

There are many who call themselves Christians walking along that wide and broad road and unfortunately many **teaches of the word** walking along with them who do not sparkle or shine like the night stars, however those trudging along the narrow path which leads to the narrow gate, they all **sparkle and shine** and guess what, **the closer they get to the narrow gate the more beautiful and more colourful they become because they shine and sparkle in God's eyes**.

The prophet Daniel said in **Daniel 12:3** **And those who are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, shall shine as the stars forever and forever.** When I sing some hymns like Pierced, for example I always feel sad and sometimes I even get a tear in my eye because it reminds me about **how cruel** we **God's human creation** can be when we hunt down, torture and kill and even more so when the method of death we choose is to inflict on our poor victim is so cruel and so vicious. It is upsetting just **thinking about it.**

I still cannot understand why one human would want to kill another and why one human with feelings would get pleasure out of hurting another human being and robbing them of this wonderful spark of life or this feeling of being alive. This is totally beyond me.

Well, in general, man has not changed, one bit, since creation. Man still is killing man just like Cain killed his brother Abel.

The Father as we are told in **John 3:16** **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him MAY HAVE eternal life.** That verse does not say **would have eternal life or will have eternal life or shall have eternal life** it says **may have**, therefore don't get confused, this is another if clause only if is spelt **may**.

Eternal life **is conditional** it is not **unconditional.**

We are told in that verse that God the Father our Abba our DAD parted with His **most precious Jewel of all-Lord Jesus Christ, Yeshua, our LORD and SAVIOUR.** Now that is how much our heavenly Father demonstrated His love for us. He loves you and I so much that He chose to do something that we would not do and that is to send His most precious Son to die a hideous and cruel death in our place.

The Father parted with His most precious jewel to save you and I in order that **we** may live **and shine** throughout **all eternity** and **shine brighter** than the **most brilliant star in the whole universe.**

It was our older brother Lord Jesus Christ's most precious blood that was shed to ransom these precious **living jewels** that were created from the dust. That is, you and I. **Revelation 5:9** says: **Because You were slain and did redeem us to God by Your blood, out of every tribe and language and people and nation.** We have been chosen, we have had all our rubbish scraped away and we have been washed clean and then gently shaped and polished until we began to shine. That is the way a raw gemstone is formed into a priceless jewel by chipping away all the unwanted rubbish this is also the process by which a true Christian is also formed.

We were called to Come to Me by the Lord, when we were sinners and we needed through learning **from Him** to have all our rubbish our sins scraped and peeled away from us through true honest repentance. Then we required washing through the cleansing symbolic water of Baptism which pictures being washed clean with the precious blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ and after that our new characters in God could begin to be formed in us through the Holy Spirit. All the time, while this process is taking place in us we are being gently polished and shaped until we are **ready to shine like our Brother Jesus. The beautiful song Shine Jesus Shine reminds us of this marvellous process. I just love that hymn. His light within us makes us gleam and glow and sparkle and shine.**

When we begin to shine our lights are what are, live and do.

Matthew 5:16 tells us: **In the same way also, you are to let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and may Glorify your Father Who is in Heaven.**

Once again, I must ask that tricky question, who are these special living Jewels. Is everyone in the world who ever lived been placed in that **very special category** of being **God's chosen special and precious and peculiar Jewels, His treasure?** To be truthful **No, I do not think so and not at this time.**

Many people miss that tricky **IF clause** which is to be found in so many verses. Therefore, who are the favoured ones, who fall into the category of being God's special Jewels or His special treasure.

The verse I read out before in **Malachi 3:16** tells us who they are and their names are also written into a book as I read before: **A book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared the Lord, and for those who thought upon His name** and what did the Lord say **and they shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day that I will make up My own special jewels.**

7

The book or remembrance is also known as the book of life. This book is first brought to our attention In **Exod. 32:32**: where Moses called it your book then In **Exodus 32:33** The Lord calls this same book **My book** and in **Isaiah 4:3** calls it, written among the Living **Revelation 20-12**, the Book of Life. **Revelation 21:27** the lamb's book of life.

What did we learn from that verse? I believe that we learned two very important things about these special people, these special living Jewels.

One way by which we can identify these living jewels from everyone else in the world is they will have a respectful fear and a profound respect of God's authority and of His majesty.

And secondly, they will be **obedient, love and adore Him and above all else, they will be thinking upon His name His Glorious name, His Majestic name and will not be denying His Sovereignty in their lives.**

Julie and I love the Hymn, which John Newton wrote, Amazing Grace, because it is because of God's **Amazing Grace** that you and I **are** His special Jewels. You see, not just women love jewels, God loves His jewels and God the Father has His **own very special jewels** which He **draws** to Himself. Just like some women **are drawn** to the sparkly coloured gemstones, God the Father draws to Himself, through Jesus Christ our Lord a different kind of jewel and this jewel is far more precious than any gem stone that we can **or will ever** find here on Earth.

God the Father has chosen these special living jewels and has set them apart for Himself. Jesus Christ has bought these precious living jewels with His own precious blood. These jewels were once rough scruffy and uncut, however, Jesus **desired them** and made them to be His jewels! We must give thanks to God always who has worked such a change in you and in me! who were once a lump of dirt and filled with sin and **has made us** into **His special jewels!**

Does it surprise you to learn that the one great and self-sufficient sovereign God has "jewels" and does your surprise increase with astonishment when you learn that these "jewels" are living creatures and does your astonishment then give place to **overwhelming amazement** when you discover that these living creatures are fallen and depraved sinners **redeemed from among the children of men.**

Ask yourself, would nothing but Divine grace ever liken such wretched worms of the dust to precious stones precious **living Jewels.**

Yet that is the very thing that we find our great God doing.

Furthermore, doesn't it amaze you to know that the Seraphim and Cherubim and all the top angels who stand before **the throne of our Great God are nowhere in the bible called His Jewels.** It is not the angels, nor is it the holy seraphim and exalted cherubim who are spoken of as the Fathers valued treasure, **it is us, it is you and I, the once lost and ruined sinners who were saved by our great God's amazing grace! and our Dear Lord's precious blood. This is amazing.** We are to be Priests and kings. That is also an **amazing fact. Revelation 5:10** tells us plainly: **And did make us unto our God Kings and Priests, and we shall reign upon the Earth.** That promise may be future; however, doesn't it

give us something to **hope for and continue praying for** and continue **striving for**. I think that it most certainly does.

Saints are likened to, in some scriptures, as wheat, fish, trees and stars and also "**jewels**". The typecasting of God's special people is a deeply interesting one as I have so far pointed out.

Refer to: **Isaiah 55:8-9**. This is one of Marlies's favourite verses:

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Now those verses are the difference between human and Divine estimates of relative values. That's the world's standard, that's you and me and our worth **or values** are **very different from that of God's values - very different indeed**.

We humans place greatness on the so-called immortals of our human history? people like Caesar, Charlemagne, Napoleon, Queen Elizabeth and lest we forget Kevin 07 and sad to say some even worship and immortalise Hitler.

Other people worship pop singers like Madonna and Michael Jackson. And sad to say many even worship **Satan**. Yes, all those people may be great in the eyes of us humans, who live here on this earth or this precious jewel set in outer space, however, that's **man's thoughts about greatness** and that's **man's way of looking at things, not God's**, not our Father in heaven. Just who **do you think are great** in the eyes of our **Great God in Heaven?**

Well surprise-surprise as Gomer Pyle would say they are mostly **all unknown down here on Earth**. They are the humble and the lowly and the meek and they are totally **insignificant in the affairs of the world**. Their names were never or rarely recorded among men **but guess what** we are told that **their names are all recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life in heaven**.

Gods ways are not man's way and **that** is for sure. Now you may think that I am wrong with that statement. God's ways are recorded in the Lord's sermon on the mount. Please look it up in:

Matthew chapter 5 to chapter 8

Why has the Lord likened His people to "jewels"? Maybe it is because His people, those who truly love Him are of **immeasurable value**, in His sight. Now this is an exceedingly hard thing for some Christians to really grasp because many Christians are taught and **therefore feel like they are** wretched and worthless, knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ gave up His precious life as a ransom to save us.

Jesus died for you and I. **That** is how precious **we are, and we are not worthless in the Lord's sight** and we are **not wretched. We are jewels** and if we feel worthless then we had **better ask God for a change of heart and be very thankful and praise Lord Jesus' Christ's magnificent and glorious name.** Ephesians 1:18 speaks of: **The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.**

Skip back to **Matthew 13:35-46** This is found in the Kingdom of heaven parables: **Again, the Kingdom of heaven is compared to a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who after finding one precious pearl, went and sold everything that He had, and bought it.** Remember what Edgar Mitchell the astronaut said about the Earth. It's like a pearl. Over the years I have sat down where you are sitting, and I have listened and I have learned wonderful words of wisdom which have been spoken from up here.

I have also heard several explanations of that verse on DVD. I believe that I have grown over the years in knowledge, through the Holy Spirit working in me. I never could quite grasp what Jesus was saying in that verse, However, I understand that a pearl is also **a jewel.** Pearls are known as **the precious water Jewel.** And Pearls are **indeed** a precious jewel of great price.

The merchant of course is Lord Jesus Christ our Great King Lord and Saviour Who is seeking His precious Pearl, His Church and all those **true Christians** who are in **His Church.** That is what the Lord is seeking, **true Christians,** not make-believe ones and not the fake ones and the one Pearl is His Church, **His precious Church** and all those in His Church who give **His pearl** its shine. The Church I believe is the Lord's special Jewel and we, that's you and I, are the contents of that pearl. The shine, the lustre, the **brilliance,** of that **one precious pearl or the precious water Jewel.** Our Lord gave His life for His Church, His special Jewel, His Pearl. He sold Himself through death to purchase us.

1
0

That is how precious we are to Jesus and **that is how precious His church is to Him** because it is the Bride, His bride and **His bride is very special to Him just as our bride or bridegroom was and is still precious to us.** The Lord Jesus likens His Church as "one pearl of great price", however, within that Pearl are His people.

From the earliest time, from when man's records commenced men have thought a lot of precious stones and fabulous prices have been paid for them. The Hebrews carried out

many precious jewels from Egypt. Abraham was a wealthy man and his servant carried jewels with him and gave them to Rebekah as we read in **Genesis 25:53**. I have read in the National Geographic that hundreds of men will work for a whole year in one of the diamond mines of Africa and the entire result of their efforts may be held in the palm of their hand.

Well Lord Jesus' Church is far more desirable to Him than any Diamond or ten thousand Diamond mines.

Remember that the value of anything in the eyes of its possessor may be gauged by the price that they are willing to pay for it. Therefore, you see, so valuable was the Church to Jesus Christ, His precious Pearl that He gave Himself for it and shed His Own precious blood to purchase it for Himself.

That is why the saints are likened unto "jewels" because of the great value which the Lord places upon them. Remember this because of their divine creation a jewel, **any jewel** is the production of God. And remember this also, if we want to shine like the brightest star, then we must build for ourselves a solid foundation which reveals our individual level of works faith and obedience, to the word of God, through our main foundation stone **Lord Jesus Christ**. **1 Corinthians 3:11-14** is interesting: **For no one is able to lay any other foundation besides that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ, now if anyone builds upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood hay or stubble, the work of each one shall be manifested, for the day of trial will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire shall prove what kind of work each one is, if the work that anyone has built endures, he shall receive a reward, if the work of anyone is burned up, he shall suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet as through fire.** Just as there are different brightness's to the stars in the heavens there are many who will be saved but will suffer loss meaning that they will shine less than the brightest star because of the loss which they suffered.

1
1

Diamonds have been burned and other jewels have been dissolved into their elements but even, after the most laborious attempts, no chemist **has yet** been able to make a single diamond.

The chemist knows the compound which makes up a diamond, however, they always fail to produce one. Diamonds are the secret productions of God's own skill and just as the world thinks it knows what a Christian is, the world **cannot make a Christian. God alone can.**

This is the reason why the saints are so precious to the heart of the Lord Jesus because He regards and receives them as the Father's unique and loving workmanship the Father's **gift** to Him. This is revealed to us time and time again in that beautiful 17th Chapter of John. Open your bibles See what verse 2 states: **That He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him,** Verse 6 and 7, **I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have**

given Me out of the world, they were Yours, and You have given them **to Me**, and they have kept Your Word, now they have known that all things that You have given Me **are** from You. And from **John 17 Verse 10** All Mine are Yours and all Yours are Mine and I have been glorified in them **Verses 20-23** I do not pray for those only, but also for those who shall believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, even as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they may also be **one in Us**, in order that the world may believe that You did send Me, and I have given them the Glory that You gave to Me, in order that they may be **one** in the same way that We are One, I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, and that the world may know that You did send Me, and have loved them, as You have loved Me. What is the one? I feel that the one which is spoken about is the precious Pearl of Great and immeasurable price which Our Lord Jesus Sold everything to purchase, that's the Church and in that Church, that precious pearl is You and me and we are one with the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as they are as one in us.

Importantly, look at verse 9 as it says something very important: **I am praying for them: I am not praying for the world, but for those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours.** Lord Jesus **is not** praying for the world. Now ask yourself who are they, these are the precious pearl they are the precious jewels **they are the ones Who the Lord is praying** for. We are also told in **Romans 9:21** **Or doesn't the potter have authority over the clay to make from the same lump of clay one vessel unto honour, and another vessel unto dishonour.** We **are very special**, and we are **very precious** because **we** were made to honour from the same lump of clay which our Father the Master potter also made others to dishonour now **doesn't that make you feel very special and very humble.**

1
2

If it doesn't, theirs is something wrong, **because you are special.** Remember Jesus died for you and Jesus prizes you as a jewel of **absolute infinite value.**

What is a true Christian and what **makes someone a true Christian?** It is the same composition which constitutes the value of precious stones and that **is their rarity.** Think about it. If precious stones were so numerous and so common that they are found in the soil of every shovel full of soil **they would not be so rare or precious** nor would they **be highly esteemed** would they. The same as A true Christian.

If every Church in every nation was jam packed with true Christians and every person in every church professed to be a true Christian, then true Christians would be so common that they would be like the stones in the shovel. But true Christians are rare and that is why they are precious in the Lord's sight.

The number of perfect large diamonds | existence of 100 carats or more is small, and they are called paragons and can be likened to **1 Corinthians 1:26** **For you see your calling, brethren, how that Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.** Lord Jesus made it very plain when He declared that God's flock is only a little one in **Luke 12:32** and that few find that narrow way that leads unto Life **Matthew 7:14.**

God, I feel would never have likened His people to "jewels" had they been nearly so **numerous** as is now supposed and preached in every Church.

Because of their beauty and value, the jewel is prized for its lustre. It is the brilliance of the gem which is the evidence and test of its value. Jesus said in **John 8:12** that: **He is the light of the world.** And we read in **2 Corinthians 4:6** **Because it is God Who commanded the light to shine out of Darkness, who shined in our hearts, the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.** Take the most precious Ruby or diamond into a very dark room and look at it. Guess what, it emits no radiance or sparkle at all.

But bring it out and place it under a light and then look at it -it shines and sparkles because it borrows from the light or is a reflector and transmitter of light. Being a reflector and transmitter, it **needs light to shine.** The test of a true Christian **is that light within which we reflect outwards, and that light is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

God wants us to examine ourselves. Sit back and examine yourselves and ask yourself, do I shine, do I sparkle.