

God's Special Treasure

*"The Lord has declared today that you are His people, His own special treasure..."
Deuteronomy 26:18*

The call came out of the blue on a sunny morning...two of our kids had been in a serious car accident, four hours away from home. They are older teens, and were returning home from a trip on their own to see their grandparents. Immediately after receiving that terrifying phone call, my husband and I were in the car and on the way to our kids. Needless to say, it was a very long four hours! We soon found out that, by God's grace, neither of our children sustained any serious injury; but during that long ride I had a lot of time to think about what a special treasure our children are, and how much we cherish them...

...The car they were driving was completely totaled. It was a solid, dependable family car, and we valued it highly because it was used as a part of our daily routine and enabled our daughter to get to work. That day, however, the car was the last thing on our minds and far from being something that we treasured...

...Before I received that phone call, I was treasuring the prospect of a rare day at home alone with no commitments on my calendar. After the phone call, that "treasure" was meaningless and quickly forgotten...

In countless other ways during that trip, I was reminded of how many things lose their value when compared to the lives of those we treasure.

Six times in the Old Testament, God calls the Israelites "His own special treasure". Each time the words "special treasure" are used, they are prefaced by either "His own" or "My own". In the New Testament in Titus 2:14, believers are described as "His very own people". ***Vincent's Word Studies*** says that the wording used in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) for "His own special treasure" is repeated in identical form here in Titus, and that though this phrase "originally applied to the people of Israel, [it] is transferred here to believers in the Messiah—Jews and Gentiles". That means us!

It is important to note that the concepts of holiness and obedience are found in every reference to "His own special treasure" except one; after all, surely holiness and obedience are the only appropriate response to Him who has loved us so completely! Yet the Bible makes it clear that God does not call me His special treasure because of my good works. In fact, Deuteronomy 7:8 tells me that I was chosen not because of who I am or what I have done, but "...rather, it was simply that the Lord loves you".

You, too, are His own special treasure, belonging solely to Him and cherished by Him. If we who are earthly parents treasure our children so deeply, how much more does the perfect Father in heaven treasure His children? Read and meditate on these Scriptures today, and bask in this precious truth!

Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 7:6-8, 14:2, 26:18; Psalm 135:4; Malachi 3:17, Titus 2:14