*Precious**

Psalm 116:12-19 (12) What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?
(13) I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.
(14) I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people.
(15) **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**
(16) O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.
(17) I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.
(18) I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people,
(19) In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.
Psalm 118:6-8 (6) The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?
(7) The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.
(8) **It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.**
Such a trust built on love for God according to the riches of His glory, that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit, and as Christians have the power to comprehend with all the saints that, Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints (Psalm 116:15). *After the death of my girl, my companion, my wife, I noticed a bookmark in her Bible. There she had circled two verses, Psalm 116:15 and Psalm 118:8, that inspired this lesson. Physical death is an appointment that cannot be canceled, but while God's children are on earth, they may enjoy that which the Lord provided, turn with me to;*
Ecclesiastes 9:7-9 (7) Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.
(8) Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

(9) Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.
A man living in marriage with a woman joyfully — who he loves passionately -- who he can take shopping for a new dress as naturally and joyfully as is his desire for her — whose consideration and concern for each other is kindness based on faith in His word — and whose whole life is built on love and fear of God. Why not take time out for each other, go and enjoy, for that is the instruction from the best marriage counsel ever written, Let's hear what the wife has to say in;
Song of Solomon 7:10-13 (7) I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.
(11) Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.
(12) Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.
(13) The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved.
I am my beloved's and his desire is towards me. — This and the following verses contain the words of the bride. She represents herself as a true wife, whose husband is trapped in her love. Her words are abounding with her happiness, I am wholly his, let his love have free course, and let us retire together away from all the distractions. So many good benefits come out of a loving marriage that is centered on Christ, I ponder; Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the lord (Proverbs 18:22). *In a world centered relationship, it seems many love the chase, but become bored with the conquest. Living in a Christ centered marriage is not boring.*
The relation of marriage is declared to be hallowed as a type of the unity of Christ with His Church, and hence the inference is drawn of the duty of free-will obedience in the wife, and of self-sacrificing love in the husband (Eph 5:22-33). When these Christian attributes abound in a marital relationship, happiness

and goodness is the outcome.
Way back in the beginning, before there was a woman, God made this remark; It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him (Genesis 2:18). *What does it mean,* an help meet for him? *In these words we have the Divine appointment of marriage, and also the declaration that the female is subsequent in order to the male. The happiness of marriage is based, not upon the woman being the same thing as the man, but upon her being the one in whom he sees his counterpart.*
The word "meet" means "suitable," or "adapted to." The Lord God made for man an "help" adapted to his fiscal and intellectual nature, the counterpart of his being, suitable to his nature and his need. And he is suitable to her nature.
There was a time that I was reluctant to preach from Song of Solomon because it is somewhat "steamy." However, Bro. Jim Brown said, if it's in the Bible, preach it, let's turn to;
Song of Solomon 7:1-6 (1) How beautiful are thy feet with shoes, O prince's daughter! the joints of thy thighs are like jewels, the work of the hands of a cunning workman.
(2) Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.
(3) Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins.
(4) Thy neck is as a tower of ivory; thine eyes like the fishpools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bathrabbim: thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.
(5) Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries.
(6) How fair and how pleasant art thou, O love, for delights!
She is "a bride adorned for her husband"; her "uncomely parts," being most adorned. How surpassingly delightful is love above all other pleasures of life. The king is deeply moved as he watches the beautiful figure before him, and delights in the thought that so lovely a creature is his wife, to have and to hold, to love and to cherish, from this day forward until parted by death. The rapture which he pours out may be taken either as a recollection of how he was captivated in the past, or the past may be used for the present, as it frequently is in Hebrew. The meaning is the same in both cases, he was captivated by her beauty and her passionate

love, as a husband should be toward his wife, and the wife captivated by his desire and passionate love toward her. God's primary object of marriage between a man and woman is is set forth in;
1Corinthians 7:1-4 (1) Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.
(2) Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.
(3) Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.
(4) The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.
Marriage is a team effort, if only one is winning, both are losing. The marriage belongs to both of you, if lost, it is lost equally. If the marriage is a winner, that is shared equally. Wives, your husbands are visual creatures, and by now, he has seen you in many states, some good, some indifferent. That's part of living a life together, but it can also indicate that, occasionally, it's worth helping him picture you in a certain light. Before you retire for the night, ask your husband to choose your lingerie for the next evening, then have him lay it out for you. It's a little tease. Once he knows what you will be wearing, he'll think about it the whole next day and can't wait to get home to see you in it. The power of marriage is shared equally, thus in ones need and the power of the other to satisfy that need, is laid the foundation for the Divine institution of marriage for all, observed and proven from the beginning of recorded time. Please turn to;
Genesis 2:21-24 (21) And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;
(22) And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.
(23) And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.
(24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Finally, one is solemnly brought to him who is his counterpart, and he calls her 'Ishah', (Hebrew for woman)*, and pronounces her to be his very bone and flesh. Upon this, He who at the beginning made them male and female, pronounced the Divine marriage law that a man and his wife are to be one flesh. The human pair differed from all other pairs in the beginning, and by that distinct formation of Eve, they were one. And this passage is appealed to by our Lord as the divine institution of marriage,* and they twain shall be one flesh (Matt 19:5). *A same sex union does not and cannot meet the requirements of the marriage law, two of the same sex cannot become 'one flesh', but is an abomination with the Lord! Do not take my word, turn to;*

Leviticus 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Under the law of ordinances, sodomy is an offense punishable by death. And yet the reprobate insist a same sex union is not prohibited in the Bible. Also that Jesus does not condemn a same sex union. Paul the Apostle, clearly differs significantly on the matter, let's look to;

Romans 1:24-32 (24) Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

(25) Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

(26) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

(27) And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

(28) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

(29) Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit,

malignity; whisperers,
(30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
(31) Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:
(32) Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.
The word "death" in the Scriptures is often used to denote punishment as seen in Leviticus 20:13. But it does not mean in the book of Romans that these deserved capital punishment from the civil magistrate, but that they were evil and offensive to God, and deserving of punishment from His hand. They are without moral or spiritual understanding; Without that natural affection — our purpose today is the affection based upon the God given relationship between a husband and wife, male and female. Unnatural affections are covenant breakers, breaking that solemn marriage covenant by preferring that which is abhorred by the Lord. As Christians, we must peaceably warn them, but in the process be not overcome with vengeance, for vengeance belongs to the Lord. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men (1Thessalonians 5:14). *Warn them of their persistent disorderly behavior and unnatural character, which is rebellion against authority of the Lord and shall not be tolerated by Him, turn with me to;*
Revelation 21:23-27 (23) And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.
(24) And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.
(25) And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.
(26) And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.
(27) And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

By this declaration the guilty
as stated in Leviticus 20:13 and Romans 1:32 shall not enter into that city. The gates stand open always, but no evil thing will find a home there. The emphatic repetition here of the idea that all sin is excluded, is in harmony with all other Scripture. None are admitted into heaven who work abominations, such as an homosexual lifestyle which is a deviation from the natural. It is free from hypocrites, such as make lies. As nothing unclean can enter heaven, let us be stirred up by these glimpses of heavenly things, to use all diligence, and to perfect holiness in the fear of God. Be aware; Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. (Hebrews 13:4). *Therefore;* let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband (1Cor 7:2). *To further witness honorable marriage, turn to;*
Proverbs 5:15-19 (15) Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.
(16) Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.
(17) Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.
(18) Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.
(19) Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe;

let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.
Proverbs was written by King Solomon, here he encourages a man to rejoice with the wife of his youth; do not despise her, but delight in her company when you are old as you did when you were young; express a joy and pleasure in her.
When a woman marries, she is called by a new name - the name of her husband. Accordingly, they of obedient faith shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name; not the seed of Abraham, or the children of Israel, but of God; that whereas they were by nature the children of wrath, now by grace they shall be the children of God. They shall be called Christians. This name is a new name, taken only when baptized into His body; a renewed name at the time of regeneration and bestowed in the covenant of grace; a renowned name, better than that of sons and daughters of the greatest kings, and attended with blessings in heavenly places; a wonderful name, an instance of marvelous grace in God and a name which is ever new, and will always continue; this blessing of grace is of God and not of men, and is to be ascribed to the grace of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, turn with me to;
Matthew 28:16-20 (16) Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.
(17) And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.
(18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
(19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
(20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
When a person is baptized into Christ, He gives that person power to take on a new name of Christian, and is no longer known by the former name, sinner. The new name can only be taken at the conclusion of obedient faith, For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Gal 3:27). *What then, could be more precious than to have been baptized into Christ and taken His name? And then at the end of*

this earthly journey to be found in the company of; Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them (Revelation 14:13). *Grief over the death of a husband or wife in Christ is lawful; and tho we weep for our own loss, it is their gain. Christianity does not forbid, and grace does not do away with natural affections. Tho it is not necessary that we should sorrow immoderately for Christian friends: herein the efficacy of Christianity greatly appears, that it neither takes away nor embitters, but sweetly tempers, that most refined of all affections, our desire of, or love toward the loved one in Christ that has passed on. Death is an unknown thing, and we know little about the state after death; yet the doctrines of the resurrection and the second coming of Christ are a remedy against the fear of death and undue sorrow for the death of our Christian friends; and of these doctrines we have full assurance. We should support one another in times of sorrow; not deaden one another's spirits, or weaken one another's hands. And this may be done by the many lessons to be learned from the resurrection of the dead, and the second coming of Christ. What!, comfort a person by telling him he is going to appear before the judgment-seat of God! Who can feel comfort from those words? That person alone with whose spirit the Spirit of God bears witness that his sins are blotted out, and the thoughts of whose heart is purified by the Holy Spirit and therefore is deserving of,* A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth (Ecclesiastes 7:1). *To have a name written in heaven, in the Lamb's book of life, and to have one's name confessed by Christ hereafter before His Father and His holy angels, there is no greater value and earthly corruptible things are not worthy of comparison.*
Better is a good name the righteous obtain in this world, than the anointing oil which was poured upon the heads of kings and priests.
Now let's turn to;
Matthew 16:24-27 (24) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
(25) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

(26) For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
(27) For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.
If any person will follow Jesus, let him deny himself and take up his cross. For it was on the cross where sin was crucified in the flesh of God's Son, and our sin is crucified with Him in the faithful act of baptism for remission of sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Because of the peerless value of the death of the Lord, God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis by faith in Christ. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, and repentance, confession and baptism is the effect of faith for remission of sin; only those who first believe the testimony of God, and by faith repent of their sins, and by faith confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and by faith are baptized into His death, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. It's invitation is open, as is prayer requests, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

Ref. Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers
Benson Commentary
Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible
Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary
Barnes' Notes on the Bible
- XIV. The Woman
Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers
She shall be called Woman (Ishah), because she was taken out of Man (Ish).—Adam, who knew that he was an Ish (see Excursus at end of this book), called the woman a “female Ish.” The words of our Version, man and woman (perhaps womb-man), represent with sufficient accuracy the relation of the words in the original.

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