

“Playing Marbles With Diamonds”

1 Peter 2:7 “Unto you therefore which believe, he is precious...”
Precious - “inestimable value”

Vance Havner was born in 1901 in Vale, NC. From his back porch growing up “one could see Grandfather Mountain, Table Rock, and companion peaks standing like sentinels along the western skyline.” He began preaching as a young man and traveled all over the country preaching the glorious news of the gospel. He spent all of his adult years preaching and died in 1986.

Just a year before his death in 1985 a book was printed that contains several of his messages. One of the messages is also the title of the book, *“Playing Marbles With Diamonds”*. Vance Havner highlighted that even then, in the 1970’s and 1980’s “We live in an age of sham and make-believe, superficiality and ballyhoo (publicized praise), lowered values, and marked-down prices.” He feared “we have developed a generation incapable of reverence and worship in the presence of a holy God.” That was 40 years ago!

Vance Havner illustrated his concluding thought. He stated, “I have read that years ago in that part of Africa where diamonds in the rough were plentiful, a traveler chanced upon boys playing. Closer investigation revealed that they were playing marbles with diamonds. God forgive us today if we handle God’s treasures as though they were trifles and the coinage of the eternal as though it were play money. Now is no time to play marbles with diamonds!”

I pray that God would remind us of the divine treasure we been given in this place. God’s mercy, His grace, His presence, His people, His CHURCH. The value of it all is “inestimable”, it is priceless. Let us never be guilty of playing marbles with diamonds.

~ Pastor Tim Hodge