

chapter of the OT. In Mal.3:16-17 we read: Then they that feared the Lord spoke 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. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." God desires that His people shall be His jewels. We don't realize this perhaps quite so often; we don't think of this as clearly as we should. But Paul in his prayer in Ephesians One, where He prays God's blessing upon his people and prays (v.17) "That the God of our Lord Jesus, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him . . . and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

We think more of our inheritance in Christ--what he's given us. Of course that is tremendous--what Christ has done for us. It has a far greater emphasis than this in Scripture, yet this is a valid and important thought."The riches of the glory of (God's) inheritance in the saints." Of course by this we don't mean a few people who are called saints! We mean every one who has received Jesus into his heart. We are His saints. We are those who have been set apart. God speaks of the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. So while God justifies you completely when you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, the process of sanctification is a long slow process. God has purposes that He wants to work out in moulding you and forming you and making you into what He wants you to be.

Imagine a diamond that is dug out of the ground. That diamond dug out of the ground looks like a rather dirty piece of glass-- it has no particular form or beauty to it. But it is cleaned up and polished, and then placed on a table and a chisel is placed