

Scripture Reading: Psalm 36:5-10

*God's love is like an ocean: You can see its beginning but not its end.*  
—Pastor Rick Warren



Perhaps you have something that you consider precious. Of course, parents consider their children as precious. But I am thinking of something inanimate like a piece of jewelry, for example.

In today's reading, there's one expression that is repeated several times: "Steadfast love." In verse 7, this steadfast love is described as "precious." It is vast and beyond anything comparable in human experience. This makes it precious.

This means at least three things: It is of *great value*, it should not be *wasted* and it should not be *treated carelessly or casually*.

*Great value.* Do you remember when you got a good deal on something — a real bargain? Perhaps it was a washing machine, a television set or a car. When we say that we got a great deal, we mean that we were able to secure an object or service for far below market value. We got a great deal on a car. We got great value on the house. We got a great deal on the bathroom remodel.

God's lovingkindness is a great value, a great deal. It's a big deal, in fact. *It comes free.* There's nothing we did to earn or merit God's steadfast love. God loves us ... as we are ... just as we are. What a deal!

*And it should not be wasted.* When we get a great deal, we take care of it. We wash the car to keep it in pristine condition. We maintain the house so it doesn't fall to ruin. So, too, we "use" God's love wisely. We receive it in order to give it away. We channel God's steadfast love to others.

And linked to this, we don't *take this deal lightly*. We treasure it. We are grateful. We feel blessed. We give thanks to God for his unfailing love.

In short, God's lovingkindness is precious because it is a great deal, we don't waste it and we don't treat it casually.

—Timothy Merrill

**Prayer:** *Loving God, I praise you today for your steadfast love. It is my strength and my refuge. Amen.*