

THE MAKING OF DIAMONDS

ISAIAH 48:10; 2 CORINTHIANS 1:8

Text: Isa 48:10; 2 Cor. 1:8

(Isa 48:10 KJV) "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."

(2 Cor 1:8 KJV) "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:"

Introduction:

This object that I'm going to take out of this bag is a very common thing. It's not real expensive. This particular piece is probably worth at the most only a few cents. I have in my hand a piece of coal. This piece of coal was used in the Bible for the burnt offering at the brazen altar.

(Lev 16:11-12 KJV) "And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: {12} And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands

full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil:"

Just a piece of coal. It's made of carbon, oxygen, sulfur, and a few other things. Just a piece of coal. Oh it's very useful. Coal can be used to make oil, it's used for dyes, it's used in the making of asphalt, gas, ammonia, and many other things are made by coal.

However, some coal is chosen by God mysteriously for a specific task. What God is this, God takes that material, coal, and compresses it in the ground, and causes it to be under heavy heat and pressure. And after that piece of coal goes through the fire, and the pressure for hours, days, weeks, months, years, decades, and centuries it becomes what I hold in my hand. The ingredients of that piece of coal, and the ingredients of this little diamond are the same. There is only one difference between that piece of coal and this diamond; pressure and heat.

Diamonds are the hardest substance known. And the only difference between this ugly piece of coal, and this beautiful diamond is pressure and heat.

Now let me say that this beautiful diamond didn't start out like it looks now. As a matter of fact uncut diamonds have a greasy luster and are not brilliant at all. But the same stones when cut exhibit a high luster.

The primary object of cutting a diamond is to bring out the fire and brilliance of the stone; equally important, however, is the cutting of the stone according to a plan that will eliminate imperfections, such as cracks, flaws, and cloudiness, and will produce a gem of the greatest size, best appearance, and hence maximum value.

I believe that is what we should long for. To be discovered through salvation. And by the way, diamonds are sought after. But we should desire after salvation to be brought to the place of the greatest size, best appearance, and greatest value. How does this come about. Pressure and heat. However that is not the end. There is even a more taxing event to bring a diamond to the place of value. Lets look at "The Making of Diamonds."

1. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIAMOND

A. Must go through extreme heat and pressure.

1. Paul went through the pressure

(2 Cor 1:8 KJV) "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:"

2. The three Hebrew children went through the heat.

(Dan 3:20-27 KJV) "And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. {21} Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. {22} Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. {23} And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. {24} Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. {25} He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. {26} Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. {27} And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them."

2. THE DESIGNING OF THE DIAMOND.

There are four steps in the designing of a diamond. Those are cleaving, sawing, cutting, and polishing.

- Anchored to the Rock

Salvation

The second step in designing a diamond is a careful examination of the stone. During the course of this examination the expert cutter determines the cleavage planes of the diamond and decides how the stone can best be divided by cleaving and sawing.

- Cleaving the stone

The rough edge is taken off

The foundational truths are established.

The tools are simple, but expert skill is needed in their use, because too hard a blow applied in the wrong direction may ruin the stone.

Notice a diamond is used for this process.

However must be very careful in the cleaving of newly discovered diamonds.

After cleaving, the stone is often cut into still smaller pieces by sawing, and in some cases rough diamonds are sawed rather than cleaved. The next step is cutting.

- Sawed and Cut

The saw is a thin disk of phosphor and bronze, and the edge of which consist of a diamond dust and oil. Isn't it amazing that there is never any wasted material in the making of a diamond?

Even more rough edges are removed.

Distinctions direction and definition is established.

More complex tools are used for this phase.

- Polishing

The final step in designing a diamond is called polishing. This is done by cutting the primary facets. This is known as lapping. The final stage is called brilliantteering.

Even more rough edges are removed.

Its beauty and brilliance is formed.

This is the most intense part of the design.

All too often many people never make it to or past this point.

They get on the edge of brilliance, and quit.

3. THE DISCOVERY OF THE DIAMOND

- A. A diamond must be found.
- B. We search for diamonds or the lost.
- C. Much is given in the finding of diamonds.
- D. We too must give much in finding diamonds.

- 1. Much time.

- 2. Much effort.

- E. Realize that once discovered, it still doesn't have much beauty.

- F. Some of those that we need to reach with the Gospel don't have much beauty, but were still need to seek them.

4. THE DISTINCTION OF DIAMONDS

- A. Are very valuable.

B. Are very tough.

C. Can withstand the heat and pressure.

Close:

Have you been discovered today? If you were to die today are you 100% sure that you would go to Heaven? If not you can be sure today.

You say I know that I'm saved, but the pressure has got to me and I'm on the verge of quitting, or possible have quit.