

**Song of Solomon 1: 10 and 11; "Ornaments of Gold with Studs of Silver",
Sermon # 12 in the series - "I am my Beloved's", Delivered by Pastor Paul
Rendall on August 26th, 2009, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

We have seen the comparison drawn by the Bridegroom King in verse 9, of his beloved being like a filly among Pharaoh's chariots. The question that we must ask ourselves, now, is if that comparison continues through verses 10 and 11? I believe that the answer to that question is yes it could, because the picture being conveyed to our spiritual eyes is one which could apply to a horse or to a beautiful woman. Thomas Robinson in his commentary says, "Ornaments of gold, silver, and jewelry about the face and neck, were greatly esteemed in Oriental countries." "So Arabs adorned both their horses and camels, as well as their own persons." So really it does not matter whether we are speaking of the filly or Christ's Bride, the Church, which the filly represents; the truth is still the same. Her cheeks are lovely with ornaments, and her neck with chains of gold. The spiritual truth which is gleaned from this picture is this. The spiritual beauty of the church, which is seen by God and by spiritually-minded men in the life of each and every believer who makes up that Church, is something which is placed upon them by God as a gift to them. The privileges and blessings of grace which are given to the believer in Christ adorn their life. They set the Christian life off as being something very beautiful. The Bride had thought of herself as black before, and yet beautiful. Christ now assures her that she has a beauty which is, and which will be, accentuated by the ornaments that He gives to her. If the Church and every believer in it are pictured by a horse, the picture is even more apparent. A horse cannot adorn itself. It must be adorned by its Master. But, the other truth which is apparent here also, is that a Bride most certainly can and should adorn herself with her ornaments. Even so, the believer should make every effort to put on Christ and have His grace be seen adorning their life. So this afternoon I want to bring out both of these truths. 1st - we want to see how the believer's spiritual cheeks and neck are lovely with ornaments. And then 2ndly, we want to better understand the meaning of the ornaments, the chains of gold, and the studs of silver. Let us pray that God will open our eyes to better see the beauty which adorns every Christian.

1st of all - How are the cheeks and neck of the Believer made lovely with Ornaments? (Verse 11)

I want to take verse 11 before verse 10 here because I want to try to show you who made believers lovely with ornaments in the past in Old Testament times, and who it is who makes believers lovely now with ornaments in New Testament times. The verse says, "We will make you ornaments of gold with studs of silver." Now there is something a little misleading about some of our New King James translations of the Bible which I would like to point out and correct. Over verse 11 you will see words which the translators put in, which are not in the original. They are there to try to give you help about who is speaking at any given point in this book. Above verse 11

are the words, "The Daughters of Jerusalem". And so, you might assume that they are the ones who actually spoke the words of verse 11. But I believe that this is a mistake. I think that they were assuming that since the word, "We", was used in verse 4 twice, and that those references there did refer to the Daughters of Jerusalem; that of necessity that the use of the word "We", here, also refers to the Daughters of Jerusalem. But I believe and many of the commentators I checked with also believed, that this reference here in verse 11 is a continuation of the speech of the Bridegroom rather than the re-introduction of the Daughters of Jerusalem at this point. Matthew Henry, Samuel Ainsworth, and John Gill all believe that these words are the words of the Bridegroom Christ speaking on behalf of the whole divine Trinity of persons in the Godhead; that this making and giving of ornaments was their work alone. The Bridegroom King is speaking in the same way as He did in Genesis 1: 26, when He said in conjunction with the Father, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.... Here it is, "We will make you ornaments of gold with studs of silver. All the blessings of salvation come from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit's concurrent work with each other to adorn the believer's life with grace, mercy, peace, and blessings too numerous to count.

You can see this in Old Testament prophetic language if you will turn with me first to Ezekiel Chapter 16. The ornaments which God gave to the nation of Israel, picture well the blessings which God gave to them all through their history, even though they were unfaithful to Him at many points. They were the blessings of the Old Covenant; but still, there was great spiritual glory in them. They were adorned with blessings of a national grace that was given to them as a people, and some among them also received the blessings of saving grace as they looked to the promises of God which would be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. There was great love shown to them, even from their beginnings in Abraham, all the way to their captivity in Babylon. Some among them were His Elect people and He would save them on the basis the greater more sure work of Jesus, but still there are many things typical, in these words, of what God does for every believer in Himself. He mentions here the ornaments which He made for them. "Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, and say, Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: 'Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.'" Look at verse 5. "No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born." "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'" "I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful." "Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare." "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness." "Yes I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you and you became Mine, says the Lord God." "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil." "I clothed you in

embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk." "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck." "And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head." "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth." "You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil." "You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty." "Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you, says the Lord God." This is what God did for Old Testament Israel beginning with Abraham, and God continued these blessings to them all the way through their history until the captivity; and even there, for those who knew Him. The ornaments were the ornaments of a wife. He was married to them as a nation. And he gave to His bride those ornaments which set them apart as their being distinctively and most particularly His. His giving to them His holy law, His providing for them the ordinances of worship; His giving them pattern for worship in the ark, the tabernacle, the priests, and the ephod. He also gave them the manna in the wilderness and eventually He gave them Kings and a temple to worship in. The beauty of the Lord our God was upon them in so many ways. But they were unfaithful to Him as a nation and they eventually put on the ornaments of idolatry.

Turn with me over to Ezekiel 23: 38 and following. "Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths." "For after they had slain their children for their idols, on the same day they came into My sanctuary to profane it; and indeed thus they have done in the midst of My house." "Furthermore you sent for men to come from afar, to whom a messenger was sent; and there they came." "And you washed yourself for them, painted your eyes, and adorned yourself with ornaments." Now I want you to see that the ornaments mentioned here were tokens of their unfaithfulness to God. The ornaments here were of their trying to please other gods besides their God. The ornaments of the other passage were tokens of God's faithfulness to them; His showing Israel His great and particular love for them as His people. You can see from the two passages that I just read to you that even though God was faithful to them; many of them were not faithful to Him. Something more was needed, and we will see that something if we will turn over to Isaiah 62. "For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns." "The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory." "You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will name." "You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God." You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called Hephzibah(My delight is in her), and your land Beulah(which means "married"); for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married." "So shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." Now this is what we are talking about in Song of Solomon;

Christ's Church, and all believers in it, becoming a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem. These are the ornaments of blessing which the Lord gives to His people when the blessings of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ come to them. Now, they shall be married to Christ.

Turn with me to Isaiah 61 and you will see this. In verse 10 we find the prophet Isaiah rejoicing on behalf of all believers for what God has done for his soul. "I will rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels." We see here that the ornaments of New Covenant spiritual marriage are our being justified by the grace of Christ and sanctified also by grace to love God and keep His commandments. But they are also the kind of blessings by which God most surely and definitely secures our salvation so that we can wear our blessings like ornaments. The blessings of the New Covenant far exceed the Old Covenant in the quality and their extent, not only to the Gentiles in New Testament times, but also to the Jews in the latter Day of those New Testament times. Turn with me back a page or so to Isaiah 60, verse 15 and you will see this. "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, so that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, a joy of many generations." "You shall drink the milk of kings; you shall know that I, the Lord am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob." "Instead of bronze, I will bring gold, instead of iron, I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze, and instead of stones, iron." You can see just how far the blessings of the Old Covenant will be far outstripped, in New Testament times when the Jews will come to be converted to Jesus Christ and brought into the Church with the Gentiles. Bronze is a lesser quality metal than the gold which will replace it in that Day. Silver is much more precious and permanent than the wood which it will replace. And iron in the place of stones will be a better framework so that what is built will not crack or crumble. So are the blessings of the New Covenant greater than those of the Old. They give the believer the most precious of ornaments which they can wear upon their soul as they walk with their King; as they serve Him and worship Him before a watching world. But take care, all you believe that you are Christians that you do wear them, and that you do not neglect so great a salvation which has been given to you. Take care that you do not substitute the ornaments of the world and materialism, for the spiritual blessings which ornament your soul. This leads us to the 2nd point of this afternoon's message -

2ndly - We want to understand better the meaning of the ornaments, the chains of gold and the studs of silver. (Verse 10)

"Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments, your neck with chains of gold." I want you to turn with me to Proverbs Chapter 1, verse 8. "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck." Now we see better, do we not, what this passage in Song of Solomon is commending. It is commending the grace at work in the heart of one who will honor and obey his parents by listening to their

good and godly instructions on how they can fear God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge it says in verse 7. This leads to humble submission to parental authority and instruction. It is the heeding of their instruction that will become an ornament to the life of any young person as they come into adulthood. Heeding these instructions will set you apart in the mind of God and in the eyes of men. It will be your evident humility and your obedience to their instruction will be as ornaments which set off the spiritual cheeks and neck of those who wear them.

Turn also over to 1 Peter chapter 3, verse 1. "Wives, likewise be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear." "Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging of the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel--rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God." "For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror." It is the words, "Do not let your adornment be merely outward," that I want you to focus on. It is also the words, "They adorned themselves," that I want you to think about. There is an adornment of the heart and the spirit which comes through the grace of Christ, which leads to true humility and true submission. The cheeks of the believing wife need not be flushed with pride or anger or frustration at her husbands disobedience to God's word. He can be won without a word when you have a meek and quiet spirit. This is a precious ornament which Christ gives those who are spiritually married to Him; to be humble and to be submissive to their husbands; to do good and to not be afraid. There are chains of gold which bind two hearts together in marital love which only God can see, but their strength is very great and they have an incorruptible beauty which He alone can give.

In the King James verse 10 reads this way. "Thy cheeks are comely with rows of jewels, thy neck with chains of gold." The rows of jewels which are being spoken of are the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the believer. They are chains of gold; they are rows of jewels given to the believer to wear on their cheeks. The cheeks are the most obvious part of the face, and here I think they spiritually represent the believer's attitudes in reaction to things which may embarrass them, or frustrate them; things that may be difficult or displeasing to them as they attempt to run the race of the Christian life. And unless I am mistaken, I believe that the neck, here, is that spiritual picture which represents their faith. The cheeks and the neck of the believer are lovely when they are ornamented with these chains. The chains of gold I believe are the fruit of the Spirit. When you see love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control being evidenced in the attitudes, the speech, and the actions of a Christian; you realize that all of these graces are linked together, and they build off one another. Where there is love, there will also be patience. Where there is joy; there will also be peace. Where there is

gentleness there is goodness; where there is kindness there will be faithfulness and self-control. They each one have their particular definition, but they are all linked together in rows and like chains they hold together. All these are evidenced in the way that we speak with one another and act toward one another. In closing this sermon, let me ask you whether your spiritual cheeks have the ornaments of Christ's grace, the chains of gold, the fruit of the Holy Spirit evidenced upon them? Is your faith in Christ strong enough that you will unashamedly speak of Him and work for Him? Do you hold your head (who is Christ) up, with evident joy, in all that He has done for you, and is doing for you, and what He will do for you? He is the only One who can give you righteousness which God is satisfied with. He is the only One who can make you holy. He is the only One who can make you strong to do God's will and to love and give yourself for people around you. So trust in Him today, and keep trusting in Him as the days go by. May His grace and His strength be the ornaments that you put on today and may you wear them proudly.