

EVERY MAN IS A QUOTATION FROM ALL HIS ANCESTORS.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart (Luke 2:19 ESV).

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart (Luke 2:51 NIV).

While the Christmas season is a time of celebration, it is also a time to treasure and to ponder. There are several interesting concepts in this phrase in this short verse. Let's consider some important things first.

The word that many translations render "treasured" has a military flavor. In many contexts, the word would be translated "guarded," as a prisoner is guarded preventing escape. Mary exerted intense mental effort to store information in order to have continual access to it.

The verbs have a prefix with them that stresses "together with." The idea is that Mary is throwing these things together in her heart, comparing one thing to another, letting one thing explain another. She begins to see everything through a particular lens, and the lens grows and changes with every event.

What do you treasure about your Christmas? How do those treasures fit into God's scheme? Is all that you put in your scrapbook pictures of the presents? Or do you pause to remember what God has done for your family through the presence of His Son? Do you notice how the Lord has been weaving the events of your lives into the tapestry of His will?

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SONGS OF REFLECTION

Written by Amy Grant, Brown Bannister and Bob Farrell, a song of Amy's first Christmas album called *Heirlooms* is sure to touch your heart.

When I think of an heirloom, I think of something handed down that eventually makes its way to "Antiques Roadshow" where some people make some serious money. Unfortunately I don't have any heirlooms.

But an heirloom is a physical object that represents memories and moments of your life. Heirlooms only have value if they are reviewed, remembered and cherished.

In my garage, I store about twenty carousels of slides from my growing up years. They are a project that I want to convert to digital media. Someday. They have no value until I dust them off and look.

Amy's words are pointed: "my precious Savior is more than an heirloom to me."



