

“The Wonder of Redemption”

1 Peter 1:18-21

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I. Introduction

* Peter has given us three incentives to walk in holiness:

- The coming of Jesus Christ (v. 13)
- The Holiness of God (v. 15)
- The fear of the Lord (v. 17)

A. Peter gives us one more reason to live holy lives (vv. 18-21)

1. You were redeemed
2. Redemption is one of the greatest themes in the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - a) It's the very purpose for which Jesus came.
 - 1) “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28).
3. Redemption is central to Christianity and is probably the single most beloved term in all the Christian's vocabulary.
 - a) It's wonderful to know that we have been created by God.
 - b) How much more wonderful to know I have been redeemed by God?
 - c) Only when we understand this key doctrinal word can I know what a Christian is, what Christ has done for me, and how He wants me to live.
4. What does the word “redemption” mean?
 - a) To “buy or purchase,” or “to pay a price for something.”
 - 1) “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field” (Matthew 13:44).
 - b) The same word is prefixed with a preposition, which has the force of intensifying the meaning. The preposition means “out of,” so the word means “to purchase out of the market.”
 - c) The third word for redemption is entirely different. Its basic meaning is “to loose” or to “set free.”
 - d) Redemption is God the Father purchasing us with the price of the blood of His Son, out of the slave market of sin, to lose us or free us.
 - e) Vance Havner- *“Salvation is free but not cheap. The gift of God cost God His Son. With His own precious blood He bought us in the*

market, bought us out of the market, bought us never to return to the market.”

* Three questions about redemption:

II. What Are We Redeemed From? (1 Peter 1:18)

A. The bondage of our sinful, empty lives. (v. 18)

1. (v.18) “from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors.”
 - a) Our old life was empty.
 - b) See Peter’s description- “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (1 Peter 4:1-4).
 - c) Illustration- the Exodus out of Egypt. We were slaves to sin.

B. We are free from the Law.

1. “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree)” (Galatians 3:13).
2. Sin and death

C. One day, free from our earthly bodies

1. “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14).
2. “Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:23).
3. When? The Rapture!
4. Salvation’s three tenses—past, present, future

III. What Are We Redeemed By? (1 Peter 1:19-20)

A. What we are not redeemed by (v. 18)

1. “Not with perishable things such as silver or gold.”
2. “Ye know”- these things cannot save you
 - a) Money cannot save you
 - b) Religion cannot save you

- c) We are not redeemed by anything we are or anything we can do
- 3. What are we redeemed by?
- B. “With the precious blood of Christ” (v. 19)
 - 1. “Precious” (v. 19)
 - a) It means “costly” in the sense that value can be “highly esteemed or held in honor.”
 - 2. It’s the “blood of Christ” (v. 19)
 - a) God in the flesh
 - b) What is meant by the expression “blood of Christ?”
 - 1) It means His whole redemptive death—the cross.
 - 3. (v.19) “As of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
 - a) Illustration- Old Testament—the sacrificial lamb used as a substitution
 - b) Illustration- Genesis 3- a ram for Isaac
 - c) Exodus 12- the Passover lamb
 - d) But Isaac spoke to Abraham, his father, and said, “My father!”
 - e) “Then he said, ‘Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’” (Genesis 22:7)
 - f) John the Baptist answered it when he saw Jesus—he said, “behold the lamb of God.”
 - g) In heaven, the redeemed sing, “Worthy is the lamb.”
 - 4. Christ’s redemptive death was foreordained (v. 20)
 - a) When? Before the world was made
 - b) Christ’s death was an “appointment,” not an “accident.”
 - 5. “Was manifest in these last times for you” (v. 20)
 - a) It’s the incarnation.
 - b) “Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:6-8).
 - c) Why? To die and taste death for every man

IV. What Are We Redeemed To? (1 Peter 1:21)

A. Three facts about Jesus

- 1. It is through Him that we believe in God
 - a) He revealed God and brought us to God
- 2. He was raised “from among the dead.”

a) His resurrection

B. What does all this mean?

1. Freedom from the bondage of sin, the old life, the Law, and the bodies of sin
2. Now, I can live in faith and hope in God.
3. Live to glorify God.

a) “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body [a]and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

V. Conclusion

* When only a young lady, Frances Ridley Havergal, saw a picture of the crucified Christ with this caption under it: “I did this for thee? What hast thou done for me?” Quickly, she wrote a poem but was dissatisfied with it and threw it into the fireplace. The paper came out unharmed! Later, at her father’s suggestion, she published the poem, and today we sing it.

I gave My life for thee,

My precious blood I shed;

That thou might ransomed be,

And quickened from the dead.

I gave, I gave, My life for thee,

What hast thou given Me?

A. Redeemed

1. From sin’s penalty, power, and presence
2. By the precious blood of Jesus Christ, His death on the cross
3. To freedom, faith, and hope