

1 Peter 1:13-25- Redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ

Proposition: You have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (v. 18-19).

Therefore...

- (1) Since you have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, Be hopeful (v. 13).
- (2) “ ,” Be Holy (v. 14-16).
- (3) “ ,” Fear God (v. 17).

Introduction

- Ransom: the one most precious (wife, son, daughter, mother, father) to you has been taken- - kidnapped. How much is this precious one worth to you? How much would you pay to have this one returned to you safely? One weeks salary? One month’s salary? A lifetime’s amount of money? How much would this one be to you? Jesus has ransomed/redeemed you by his precious blood, that has no earthly equal monetarily- - this is the precious blood of God’s only-begotten Son!
- What is your true worth, significance, dignity in this world? How do you calculate your worth? Peter was writing in his letter to sojourners, exiles, and displaced people without citizenship in the Roman Empire. They needed to know their worth in God’s sight, and how to live in light of this reality. Us today? Where is our worth found? In our address (the home you live in) and our bank accounts (do you measure you worth by how much money you have in the bank)?
- Since you were worth the shedding of the precious blood of Christ, how much is this worth *to you*? Meaning how do you live in light of this? How do you live in light of this great payment of Christ’s death? What you must understand is this: **You have been redeemed (purchased) by the precious blood of Christ, therefore you are not your own.** You belong to someone else. You have been freed, liberated, to serve Christ out of gratitude from a pure heart! In fact, the Apostle Paul describes it thus:

KJV 1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

You have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ! Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, died to redeem/ransom you from the bondage of your sins. Jesus Christ shed his blood, more precious than any of the world’s riches- - Jesus Christ died so that you would be holy! He died to make you holy!

In other words: Christ redeemed/ransomed you to manifest in your life a *harmony* and *agreement* between God’s righteousness and your obedience!

The Apostle Paul sums up this marvelous truth that Peter is teaching the Church in his letter to Titus (Titus 2:11-14). He writes:

- 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
- 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
- 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
- 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1. **You have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (v. 18-19), what is redemption, or ransom?**

Scripture References on Ransom:

KJV Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

KJV Luke 24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

KJV Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

KJV Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

- From our reading of Isaiah 53: redeemed/ransomed is freed from the bondage of sin by the payment of a price. There are different types of redemption in the OT: land redemption, slave redemption, property redemption, but all of these are teaching examples of the true redemption that Israel's redemption from Egypt represents - redemption from sin and bondage by the payment of a price (Gal. 3:13). The price, the worth of your redemption is the precious blood of Christ.
- What can the blood of Christ accomplish? Our consciences are cleansed according to Heb. 9:14; we gain bold access to God in worship and prayer (Heb. 10:19); we are progressively cleansed from more and more sin (1 John 1:7); we are able to conquer the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:11); and we are rescued out of a sinful way of life, according to 1 Peter 1:19!

2. **Since you have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, be hopeful (v.13). "Set your hope fully on the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."**

- A. *Gird up the loins of your minds*- Resolve yourself fully to obedience by God's Spirit who enables you! Roll up your sleeves and be ready for action! In some places of Scripture the metaphor or imagery used is running a race or standing firm, Peter is using "gird up the loins" to communicate the readiness and resolve of our minds toward the hope to be revealed when Jesus returns.

1. Illustration: In the ancient world, their long-flowing robes prevented them from free movement and to be ready to run and exert themselves toward their goal until they pulled up the hem of their long garments and tucked them into their belts- - this was girding up the loins. We do not wear long flowing robes, but we can understand what Peter is saying.

Exercise at work, lunch: You change from your business clothes into something that gives you more freedom to move. You are fully resolved to exert energy, to exercise and therefore you change your clothes. I love yardwork: when I get ready to work in the yard, I usually get dirty from my head to my feet. I do not wear my clean starched shirt and tie when I work in the yard. I remove my tie, and change my shirt. If I am doing a few things, I may remove my tie and roll up the sleeves of my shirt for more freedom and movement. Peter doubles the metaphor of *girding up the loins*, and *of the mind* in order to teach us to fix our minds above. Our minds do not naturally rise towards God, they are oftentimes preoccupied with the cares of the world. We want to be fully resolved and determined to work and exert strength toward the hope that is to be revealed. We want all of our energies to be focused on this hope to be revealed, and meanwhile we are obedient to God's will and sober.

- B. *Be Sober*- This is to be moderate in our love of this world, just because we are awaiting a hope, a salvation to be revealed in the future! Why is sober-mindedness and self-control a fruit of the Spirit? Because we use the good gifts God has granted to us on this earth, but we do not become *preoccupied* or *dependent* upon these good gifts. The good gifts God has given us do not rule us because we are not on this world, our affections are elsewhere in heaven. Our interests are in heaven, or should be in heaven - -not here. To be sober, according to Peter is to be fully resolved to set your affections only on the true and lasting hope that is to be revealed at the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Calvin says that "...all our thoughts and affections are so kept as not to be inebriated (drunk) with the allurements of the world."

Ultimately, the best illustration that sums up *girding up the loins of your mind* and *soberness* is in Jesus' parable of the Ten Virgins, as well as in Luke 21:34 where Jesus speaks of the Day of His Return. He says:

RSV Luke 21:34 "But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare..."

3. **Since you have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, be holy as God your Father is holy (v. 14-16).**

- A. *As obedient children*- (children of obedience)- Obedience that leads to holiness is an obedience that is more than merely external behavior. Obedience that leads to holiness, is obedience from the heart because you have been redeemed/ransomed- - because you are not your own, a law unto yourself (or autonomous), you live by God's revealed will, his Law, by the Spirit of Christ who has been given to you.
 - Obedience is simply conformity of mind and heart and conduct to the revealed will of God. Remember his Law is holy, righteous, and good according to Romans 7, and it reveals God's holy character as well as his holy will for his

children - -children of obedience because they have been redeemed, purchased by the precious blood of Christ.

- Peter contrasts our present identity as *children* with our “former ignorance”- This might make us remember the Apostle Paul’s comments as well in Ephesians 4:17. Paul says:

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

- Our former ignorance was when we had no saving knowledge of God, before we were *begotten of God* or before we were regenerated. Our minds were darkened by ignorance, error, pride, darkness - -destitute of all light. But NOW: we are to obey God as obedient children because by Christ’s Spirit we are enabled to do so out of gratitude for our redemption by his precious blood!

B. *Be Holy for I am Holy*- Quote from Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2:

KJV Leviticus 11:44 For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

KJV Leviticus 11:45 For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

KJV Leviticus 19:2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

What is holiness?

1. What it is not: voluntary abstinence (e.g. Lent); grueling austerity; formalism (external practice); legalism (doing something to win God’s favor, etc.).
2. What it *is*: Holiness is obedience from the heart; obedience from the heart that loves to do God’s will because of a grateful heart! Additionally, it is thinking as God thinks, willing as God wills. In Romans 12:1-2, the Apostle Paul teaches us:

KJV Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- **Holiness is *always* the saved sinner’s response of gratitude from the heart for grace received!**
- God’s mind and will are to be known from his word; and, insofar as you really understand and believe God’s Word, God’s mind becomes your mind, God’s will becomes your will, and by your faith, you become holy. As God’s Word transforms our mind, our wills are renewed by His Spirit as we are transformed accordingly. We are not to be conformed to the pattern of this world, but transformed to be conformed to the patter of God’s will found in

God's Word. Why? Because we have been redeemed/ransomed/purchased by the precious blood of Christ, in order that we might be made like him in holiness. God has redeemed our lives so that we might be truly human - - humanity in union and communion with God- - human life as it was originally intended by our Creator prior to the Fall.

- We are obedient to God, or in other words we are to be holy as our Father is holy *in all manner of conversation/* conduct, life, etc. The LORD reminds us here of the Israelites who were brought into the land of Canaan, surrounded by corrupt, degenerate, idolatrous, pagan peoples (the same we are surrounded by, even though they wear suits and high heels today). The LORD taught the Israelites that on their pilgrimage as a separate, holy people, called apart unto himself, that they are to “be holy” in Leviticus 11 and 19. *All manner of conversation* reminds us of how God taught the Israelites in *types* what was *clean* to him and to them, and what was to be *unclean* to him and them. Why? Well, it teaches us in types that the smallest things, even the creeping things that seem insignificant, were set apart to the LORD to teach his people the practice of holiness. In Leviticus 11:44-47, the LORD says:

45 For I *am* the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.

46 This *is* the law of the beasts, and of the fowl, and of every living creature that moveth in the waters, and of every creature that creepeth upon the earth:

47 To make a difference between the unclean and the clean, and between the beast that may be eaten and the beast that may not be eaten.

- Holiness is a school where we are separated unto God, transformed by His Word to be transformed into the likeness of Christ! It is boot camp, physical training in the Christian life to prepare you for war, to enable you to stand firm, immovable, and ultimately to take part with Christ in His victory!

4. **Since you have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, love God as father, fear God as Lord (v. 17).**

A. *Fear of God*- “Love God as Father; Fear God as Lord.” We must do what God commands us in his Word. We desire to please him- - we desire His Fatherly favor, not his displeasure and discipline. Remember: “It matters little to Christians if the world smiles on them, but their Father in Heaven frowns upon them; even the same, if the world frowns on them, if their Father in Heaven smiles upon them.” To obey God and desire to keep his commandments is not legalism. Is it legalism to desire your wife or husband to be pleased with you? No! We obey and try to please our spouses, our children, those we love - -our Lord - -because we love them!

1. Illustration: What brought the greatest displeasure to your earthly father or mother when you were growing up as a child? As parents, what brings you the greatest displeasure/ anger with your children? With our Heavenly Father it is our sins! Remember the displeasure/anger your parents had with you when you

were disobedient to their wishes and rules. Imagine your own displeasure/anger as parents when your children disobey you and openly defy your wishes and rules! The true fear of God causes us to depart from evil - -to kill or mortify our sins, because we want to please him - -we want to do his wishes and keep his commands. This is far from legalism! Our obedience is done because we are children who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and we desire to please him out of gratitude for what he has done on our behalf in Christ! We should seek to avoid sin – when we fail, we should quickly desire forgiveness, and to be reconciled to our Father in Heaven!

- Remember, people of God: God has provided the *means/grounds* for our redemption and salvation in Christ's shed blood, his laying down his life as a ransom on our behalf. In order to propitiate (satisfy) God's righteous wrath against our sins, and to expiate (remove) the guilt of our sins, to provide reconciliation. God has also provided the *means* for our persevering in holiness - -to finish the race before us. That means to the glorious end, when we shall be like Christ, is the fear of God. Hebrews 4:1 teaches us:

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

What we want to understand is that the fear of God helps us to mortify/die to our sins, seek God's forgiveness in order to set our hopes perfectly on the hope (that is our salvation) that is to be revealed.

- A Scottish Preacher once said: "Both believers and unbelievers have their fears, but they arise from different sources, and have quite opposite effects..." For unbelievers, fear arises from their suppress of the truth of God's revelation and live as if they were not creatures of God. They love the world and self and therefore they fear what man can do to them...For believers, their fear "arises from a just view of God's character, a supreme desire for his favor and a fear lest they offend him and incur his just displeasure." This was Jesus' perspective. In Matthew 10:28, Jesus says: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." True fear of God *ensures* Christian obedience to God's revealed will that is done out of gratitude because Christ has redeemed them with his own precious blood.
- B. *God as Judge*- Our text says: *God judges each man's work impartially*. Every human being is subject to God's moral government of the world. All must stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ (according to 1 Cor. 3). In common language, this means that God's judgment is perfect- - he accepts no bribes, all are sinners deserving of his just punishment.

1. Illustration: Have you ever heard of a court case where the judge ruled unfairly? Have you ever read the news of a jury who decided to pronounce a murderer “not-guilty” because of a technicality in the investigation of the crime, or worse, because of the defendant’s fame or fortune? With God, this kind of judgment is impossible. His tribunal is holy- - his decisions- - his sentence from the Bench is Holy and True! He is the impartial judge who judges a man’s works according to whether he lived by God’s commands and Law.
 - People of God: we have been bought with a price - -the precious blood of Christ! How gracious and merciful is our heavenly Father to those who believe upon Christ for their righteous standing! God judged all men guilty—all men were tainted by Adam’s sin, fell short of his glory, broke his good and perfect law, yet in his mercy, he sentenced his own dear Son to die the curse of the Law on behalf of those whom he loved!
 - Christ willingly laid down his life, shed his precious blood, to redeem/ransom/purchase those whom he loved! He who had no sin, became a sin offering for us. He was a Lamb without blemish, but was slain from the foundation of the world, in order to reconcile sinners who will believe!
 - All who come before the Holy and Righteous Judge of the world will one day have to give an account for their life! You will be asked: Did you keep every jot and tittle of the Law? Did you fail at one point, with one sin, in breaking the Law? You are guilty of breaking all of it if you said “yes”. God will say to those who failed to be obedient to his commands, “Depart from me you wicked, into eternal fire and damnation.” This will be the Just Judge’s sentence upon them.
 - However, for those who come to the Judgment Seat clothed in Christ’s righteousness, who says, “Have mercy upon me Lord, a sinner!” Who says, “Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to your cross I cling”! Those who come to the Holy Judge, who looked to Jesus alone for righteousness, redemption, and sanctification, will hear the Lord say to them: “Well done good and faithful servant!” Your works were tainted, and your obedience was imperfect, yet you had a Mediator- Christ the Righteous One, who was your Advocate, the One who represented you, prayed for you, gave you his perfect righteousness in exchange for your *faith alone*! This is your hope before the Judge. Because you call this Judge Father.
 - To sum up matters concerning this Righteous and Holy Judge: As Robert Leighton, 17th century Scottish Theologian, said: “I will not sin, for my Father is the just Judge; but for my frailties, I will hope for mercy, for the Judge is my Father.”

Conclusion

What is your worth people of God? Your lives are worth the precious and priceless blood of Christ that was shed on your behalf. He laid down his life a ransom to redeem you out of your former bondage of slavery to sin. He has given you of his Spirit so that you might serve him wholeheartedly- - you are not your own.

Although you have been set free from the dominion of sin and the bondage to darkness and the Devil, you have been liberated, set free to serve the Living God- - the Holy and Just Judge of the World who is your Father. In reverence and awe fear him as you seek to obey his will because you have the Law written on your hearts by the Holy Spirit he has given to you!

Allow this great truth to penetrate your minds, sink down and flood your heart with God's love and grace, and cause your feet to walk obediently before the Father. You have been redeemed, you are not your own- - you belong to Christ! Live like it! There is nothing which ought so much to stimulate us to the practice of holiness, as the memory of this great price of our redemption- - that is, the precious blood of Christ!

Remember "Saints" (Holy Ones) of God: Holiness is always the saved sinner's response of gratitude for grace received! Since you have been redeemed/ransomed/purchased by the precious blood of Christ, remember you are not your own and that you must:

Be Hopeful,
Be Holy as your Father is Holy,
And Fear God as Lord!
Amen.

CRB