

TEXT SERMONS

SERIES: *THE RICHES OF SALVATION* – I Peter Chapter 1

MESSAGE #13

“THE PURCHASE OF SALVATION”

I Peter 1:18-21

“You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

Why does Peter introduce the subject of redemption at this point in his letter? He does so because in the previous verse he says that if we call upon God as our Father, we should live like those who have been redeemed. Indeed, if we understand from what we have been redeemed, at what price and for what purpose we have been redeemed, we will realize how blessed we are and our lives will reflect the change in state and standing that God has wrought.

In I Peter 1:18-21 we have the record of the purchase of our salvation. That transaction is called “redemption.” Let us think our way through these verses as follows:

I. THE PROCESS OF REDEMPTION. v.18

“You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers”

First, let us make sure that we are clear about what the word “redeem” means as it is generally used and then we will review the biblical meaning. The dictionary defines “redeem” as follows: “To deliver a thing or person by paying a price; to pay the ransom price for which something or someone who is held in captivity; to buy back.”

However, there is more involved in the process of redemption in the biblical sense. Do we know what had to take place in order for us to experience God’s redemption? Let’s explore the redemptive process as follows:

A. Why We Needed To Be Redeemed.

To understand the privilege and blessing of our redemption, we must understand our condition before we were redeemed. Romans 6:17-18 states it like this: “But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.” Paul is not thanking God that they had been slaves of sin, but that they were no longer such.

Physical slavery is a horrible thing; spiritual slavery is even worse. The condition of all mankind was one of slavery to sin in our fallen state. Paul says in Romans 7 that his past experience was one of being “sold under sin.” (Rom.7:14) The picture is the slave

market where slaves are bought and sold.

Illust. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and was taken to Egypt. “And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.” (Gen.39:1) The Bible pictures all sinners as servants of sin in this world, of which Egypt is a type.

B. What God Did To Redeem Us.

In the New Testament there are three different Greek words used to translate the meaning behind the word “redeem” or “redemption,” and without an understanding of these words, we lose much of the meaning behind the work of redemption. The words are:

- “Agorazo” – meaning, to purchase *in* the market place;
- “Exagorazo” – meaning, to deliver *out* of the market place;
- “Lutroo” – meaning, to loosen and set free.

Visualize this scene - it is a slave market, where slaves are bought and sold. Sinners are the slaves. The Lord Jesus Christ enters the market place of the sinner-slave trade and sheds His blood as the ransom price of redemption, thus paying for the sinner-slave’s freedom. That is “agorazo” meaning, paying the purchase price. We read about that payment in these words, “For you are bought (“agorazo”) with a price.” (I Cor. 6:2) Do not miss the point: this is payment made *in* the market. However, redemption is more than paying the purchase price.

There is another action the Redeemer takes in addition to paying the price required, and that is, He takes the sinner *out* of the slave market! That is the word “exagorazo” meaning, to deliver *out* of the sinner-slave market! To pay the purchase price and leave the slave in the slave market is not completed redemption. We read about this aspect of redemption in the following verse: “Christ has redeemed (“exagorazo”) 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.’” (Gal.3:13)

There is yet a third action in God’s redemptive work. The third word behind “redemption” is “lutroo” meaning to loosen or to set free. Christ Jesus, in His work of redemption, entered the sinner-slave market, paid the redemptive price, took the sinner out of the sinner-slave trade and freed the sinner! That is the word “lutroo.” It is used in Titus 2:14 and reads as follows, “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem (“lutroo” - loose) us from all iniquity and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

All of this may seem academic to the casual Christian but to the deeply grateful child of God it is precious truth.

“Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb,
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child and forever I am.”

II. THE PERSON OF REDEMPTION. v.19

“...the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot....”

No other person in all of human history has ever been called Redeemer, other than the Son of God, God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. There have been those who were self-proclaimed religious leaders; those who claimed to be “saviors”; false prophets who led gullible souls astray. But none claimed to be the Redeemer of mankind for they did not meet the qualifications, nor could they ever.

In the Old Testament in Israel, there were those who became so poor that they sold their land or even themselves into slavery for a set time and for a price. In Leviticus chapter 25 are laws pertaining to their ransom or redemption, whether for property or their persons. In the chapter is the Law of the Kinsman Redeemer in vs. 47-50. There were several requirements that had to be met:

A. The one who was to be the redeemer must be near of kin. (Lev. 25:48,49)

The Lord Jesus, our Redeemer met the qualification: “He was made in the likeness of men” ((Phil. 2:7); “Wherefore in all things it was proper for him to be made like his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.” (Heb. 2:17)

B. The one who was to be the redeemer must be willing to redeem.

It was possible that a kinsman would not be willing to redeem his fellow kinsman. However, Christ, our Redeemer was “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (II Peter 3:9)

C. The one who was to be the redeemer must be able to redeem.

There was the possibility that one near of kin was willing to redeem his relative, but was not able due to insufficient resources. Not so with our Redeemer! “He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him.” (Heb.7:25)

The whole of the human race was enslaved by the original sin of Adam and Eve, the heads of the race. They willingly shackled themselves and us by their disregard for God’s edict, disobeyed Him and consequently, “By the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners.” (Rom. 5:19a) But that is not the end of the story! Romans 5:19 goes on to declare, “So by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” It was the Lord Jesus “who became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Phil. 2:8)

He is our Kinsman Redeemer; He was willing to pay the price of our redemption; He was the only One Who was able to do so. Praise God that “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.” (Col.1:13)

“He is so precious to me,
He is so precious to me;
It’s heaven below
My Redeemer to know,
For He is so precious to me.”

III. THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION. V.19

“..... the precious blood of Christ.....”

A. **The Price Was What God Specified.**

“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Heb.9:22) This is God’s edict. Nothing that man can do can change it. There are those who deprecate the necessity of the sacrificial death of Christ and who champion a “bloodless religion” of good works. But it is “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son (that) cleanses us from all sin.” (I John 1:7) It is Jesus Christ “who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.” (Rev.1:5)

Since when has the slave the prerogative to dictate his ransom price? He is in no position to argue. Freedom is his only hope and whoever is willing to pay the price for that freedom should receive his undying gratitude.

B. **The Price Was Paid When Christ Died.**

Notice the negative statement - “....you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold....” (v.18) All the resources of earth could not redeem one soul enslaved by sin.

Notice the positive statement - “but with the precious blood of Christ....” Consider carefully each of the following statements:

- It was not a deathless blood shedding. That is, our Redeemer did not shed His blood apart from dying. It is possible, of course, for one to bleed without dying.
- It was not a bloodless death. Death without shedding blood is most common. However, our Redeemer’s death was a death resulting from His blood being shed.

Jesus is “the Lamb of God.” As such He fulfills the type of the sacrificial lamb so often offered in the Old Testament. When Jesus appeared on the scene John said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John1:29) That is a look backward into history. Now, a look forward into the future scene in heaven: “And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’” (Rev.5:9)

Let us read again the words, “the precious blood of Christ” in verse 19. The blood of Christ our Redeemer is precious to the Father Who sent His Son to shed His blood for our redemption; it is precious to the Son Who came from heaven’s heights to the world’s blights to shed His blood; it is precious to the Holy Spirit Who applies the blood to the believing sinner; it is precious to the sinner-slave who is redeemed by it!

CONCLUSION

The divine process of redemption is the only remedy for sinner-enslaved captives. God’s plan of redemption involved sending His Son to set the captives free by becoming the Lamb of

God Whose blood was shed upon the altar of Calvary. The gospel song proclaims this message:

“There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

E’er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.”

- William Cowper

Illust. Mrs. Jennings and I were in Hong Kong, recuperating from our trip into mainland China, when I read a most disturbing story in the Hong Kong Standard newspaper. The reporter was writing the article from New Dehli, India where he had gone to cover the event about which he was writing. I have copied part of the article word for word as follows:

“More than 5,000,000 chanting holy men, devout Hindus and pilgrims from across India bathed during a religious ceremony today in the sacred waters of the Ganges River about 385 miles southeast of New Dehli. Commissioner S.D. Bagla estimated the countless mass at more than 5,000,000 people. These millions of people are kicking up dust which is creating a permanent haze blocking out the rays of the sun. State officials braced for an expected 10,000,000 people by January 25. The officials fear there could be a stampede similar to the ones in 1954 and 1966 which killed thousands of pilgrims who rushed to dip themselves in the river at the most auspicious moments.”

I wish I could have told this mass of humanity, and all other sin-enslaved peoples, that the redemptive price has already been paid! Redemption has been accomplished! Salvation is available in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ! Embrace the embraceable Son of God as your Savior and be set free, for “if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

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