

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Wonder of Our Redemption

1 Peter 1:18-21

Part 3

Let us read **1 Peter 1:18-21** “**knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) But with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (20) For He was fore known before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you (21) who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.**”

The key word in this passage is “redemption.” It means to “buy back.” This particular passage and the verses that immediately surround it offers to us a great opportunity to study this grand theme of redemption. In the pursuit of this purpose we will attempt to answer four different questions. Two weeks ago we began to answer the first of those questions.

WHAT HAVE BEEN REDEEMED FROM? WHAT WE HAVE DISCOVERED IS THE FACT THAT ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT THROUGH THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF PASSOVER LAMBS IS AN O.T. FIGURE OR PICTURE OF THE CHURCH'S DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

THEN LAST WEEK WE SAW FOUR DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS OF THAT DELIVERANCE AS WE EXAMINED VV. 13-18.

1) FIRST EXPRESSION OF OUR DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN WAS OUR DELIVERANCE FROM “LUST.” IN V. 13-14 IT SAYS “**Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (14) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts.....**” Our desire to be displeasing to the Lord never again has to supersede our desire to be pleasing to the Lord.

2) THE SECOND EXPRESSION OF OUR DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN WAS OUR DELIVERANCE FROM “IGNORANCE.” LOOK AGAIN AT V. 14 “**As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.**” We never again will grope about in this life devoid of the knowledge of God and unable to discern his Word.

3) THE THIRD EXPRESSION OF OUR DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN WAS OUR DELIVERANCE FROM “FUTILITY.” Look at V. 18 “**knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life.**” Never again will our lives be pointless in light of eternity for we have become ambassadors for Christ and minister's of reconciliation.

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4) THE FOURTH EXPRESSION OF OUR DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN WAS OUR DELIVERANCE FROM “TRADITION.” Look again at **V. 18** “**knowing you that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers.**” Never again will you have to say that is the way I was raised, in Christ we have been set free from that.

All this leads is to the next major question dealing with our redemption.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN REDEEMED WITH?

Before answering this question Peter tells us what we were not redeemed with. Look at **Verse 18** “**Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold....**” Why does Peter even mention this ? He mentions this because there was a redemption that Jewish people were familiar with in the Old testament that was accomplished through silver and gold.

Let us turn in our Bibles to **Ex. 30** and let us read **VV. 11-12** “**The Lord also spoke to Moses, saying, (12) When you take a census of the sons of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.**” First of all, note that a census of the Jewish people was being anticipated by the Lord. In **V. 12** it begins with the words “**when you take a census.**” How did the Lord know that a census was going to be taken by Moses? He knew that a census was going to be taken because he was going to command that such a thing be done. We see the Lord's command in **Num. 1:1-3**. As the census is taken according to the Lord's command in **Numbers** we do not see a plague break out amongst the people. If this is so then what must we conclude? We must conclude that they had paid the ransom price. They had been redeemed, bought back, from God's judgment by the payment.

What specifically was the price that was designated by the Lord that needed to be paid? Let us read **Exod. 30:13** “**This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary.**” There were no coins at this time. Rather the shekel was a unit of weight. And the metal involved was most likely silver. The Lord was in effect asking that every young man that was to be counted was to give a shekel of silver or which would amount to about 1/2 ounce of silver as his ransom price. If each of the young men did this then the Jewish people would be spared from God's judgment.

Why would God do this? The reason appears to be that the Lord felt it necessary to remind the people in the midst of their census exactly who in fact was in charge and where their power really rested. Their power did not rest in their number of young men who were able to go to war but rather their power rested in having a good relationship with Himself.

If counting the people under the Lord's command was serious business consider how serious a business it would be for the nation of Israel to do so without the Lord's command. This is something that King David failed to fully appreciate. Hopefully some of you remember how King David decided to take a census of the people in order to determine the strength of his kingdom over the objections of his general and as a result of this indiscretion over 70,000 Jewish people were put to death by the Lord (**2 Sam. 24:1 Chron. 21**).

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It was a serious thing for the nation of Israel to take a census. And yet though a census opened up the nation of Israel to the Lord's judgment. In **Numbers 1** it appears that they were redeemed or bought back from that judgment through the payment of a certain price.

Could it be that just as Israel was bought back from the judgment of God , through the payment of money that we could be bought back from the slave market of sin through the payment of money also? And the answer to that question is absolutely not.

There is absolutely no amount of money that we may give to the Lord or his service that could redeem us from the bondage of sin. **Ps. 49:7-8** tells us the following, **“No man can by any means (no matter how much money he may have) redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him- (8) For the redemption of his soul is costly.”** HOW COSTLY? IT COST SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL HIS LIFE. LET US GO ON TO READ DOWN THROUGH THE FIRST PART OF **V. 19.....“Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers. (19) But with precious blood, as of a lamb....”**

Our redemption was accomplished through **“precious blood.”** Why was the blood shed or the life given for our redemption considered precious in this context? Let us again look at **V. 19 “but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless.....** “ In the old testament the sacrificial animals were required to be unblemished and spotless. Those animals of course would be of greater value. And there were times when the Jewish people would be unwilling to shed the blood , to take the life of such valuable animals, and they would offer up animals that were in some way less valuable. **Malachi 1:6-10** is a good example of this. Let us read **VV. 6-10** ,**“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?’ says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, ‘How have we despised Thy name?’ (7) You are presenting defiled food upon My altar. But you say, How have we defiled thee? In that you say, The table of the Lord is to be despised.’ (8) But when you present the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you present the lame and sick, is it not evil? Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly? says the Lord of hosts. (9) But now will you not entreat God’s favor, that He may be gracious to us? With such an offering on our part, will He receive any of you kindly? says the Lord of hosts. (10) Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you” says the Lord of hosts,” nor will I accept an offering from you.” God had asked the Jewish people to provide a certain quality of sacrifice. The sacrifice was to be unblemished and spotless. This kind of sacrifice was considerably more precious in the sight of the Jews and more costly. And it was not uncommon for many Jews to attempt to cheat God and as a result dishonor Him.**

Though there were many Jews who cheated God and dishonored him by bringing to him sacrifices that we blind and lame there were other faithful Jews who would bring the best of their flocks, those that were near as perfect as possible, and willingly would shed their precious blood in obedience to God.

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Is this what the Lord is talking about in this passage? Is he talking about a literal Old Testament unblemished and unspotted sacrificial lamb? And the answer is of course not. The verse does not say, “**with precious lamb’s blood**” but rather “**with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless.**” WE ARE NOW PREPARED THE ANSWER THE THIRD QUESTION.

WHO HAVE WE BEEN REDEEMED BY?

Let us look at **V. 19** once more “**but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**”

We have been redeemed from sin, with precious blood, by the blood of Jesus Christ. Faithful Jews may have offered up the precious blood of unblemished and spotless sacrificial lambs but these lambs were only a shadow of the future reality. These lambs which were being offered up by faithful Jews were a picture of God’s future perfect lamb the Lord Jesus..... This is why John the Baptist in **John 1:29** said, “**Behold the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.**” Let us consider **Heb. 9:11-14** “**But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; (12) and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal REDEMPTION. (13) For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, (14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself WITHOUT BLEMISH to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.**”

The shedding of the blood of Christ to redeem us will forever be a rallying cry in glory for all those who have experienced it and witness it..... **Rev. 5:8-14** “**And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (9) And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst PURCHASE FOR GOD WITH THY BLOOD men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (10) And thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” (11) And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, (12) saying with a loud voice, “worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” (13) And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them. I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”**