



Equipped For The Inevitable
“The Admiration and Amazement of Redemption”

1 Peter 1:18-21

Puritan pastor, Thomas Watson correctly observed: ***“Great was the work of creation, but greater the work of redemption; it cost more to redeem than to make us; in the one there was but speaking of a Word, in the other the shedding of blood...The creation was but the work of God’s finger...redemption is the work of His arm.”***

Redemption is a term that describes one of the essential features of salvation. It deals specifically with the cost of salvation and the means by which God received payment. The fact is people are helpless slaves to sin and self. The law condemns all. If we are to be forgiven and reconciled to God, He has to purchase us back from our sinful and selfish condition. Only He can release us from sin’s bondage and curse.

Peter allows us the privilege of fully understanding the depth of such a sin payment. In order to completely grasp its eternal significance and apply its present power, we must ask some crucial questions as we interact with the text.

1) God ransomed believers from what? (1 Peter 1:18)

“...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver and gold...”

The thing from which we have all been redeemed is what Peter calls ***“...the futile ways inherited from your forefathers...”*** In other words, we have been literally rescued from an empty, vain, useless, and worthless existence.

2) God redeemed believers with what? (1 Peter 1:19)

“...but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

In the first part of verse 18, Peter notes that Jesus did not use money as a payment for our sin, ***“...not with perishable things such as silver and gold...”*** The love of God for sinners spares no expense to ransom our souls. Silver and gold are perishable; they will never carry the value of the currency with which Jesus paid for us.

The blood of Jesus is the most **precious blood** of all, because He is utterly the only perfect person who has ever lived. The writer of Hebrews captured the essence of this perfection when he explained Jesus is perfect Mediator and High Priest of the new covenant, and that this position was made possible through His death as the perfect sacrifice. (*cf. Hebrews 9:11-15*)

The word **blood** is the chief term the New Testament used to refer to the atonement. If Christ had not literally shed His blood in sacrifice for our sins, we could not be saved. This is one reason crucifixion was the means by which God ordained Jesus should die; it was the most vivid, visible display of life being poured out as the price for sins.

Believers are not saved by some mystical heavenly application of Jesus' literal blood. Nothing in Scripture indicates that the literal blood of Christ is preserved in heaven and applied to individual believers. When Peter says that we are redeemed by the blood, he was not speaking of a bowl of blood in heaven. Peter means we are saved by Jesus' sacrificial death.

3) God redeemed believers through whom? (1 Peter 1:20a; 21a)

“He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times...who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory...”

That Jesus *“...was foreknown...”* clearly indicates that God planned to send His Son as the incarnate Redeemer *“...before the foundation of the world...”* The Father did not react to the Fall with a last-minute fix, but even before sin entered the picture He predetermined to send Jesus as the Savior.

4) God redeemed believers for what? (1 Peter 1:20b, 21b)

“...for the sake of you...so that your faith and hope are in God.”

Peter reiterates for us that Jesus' redemptive work was *“...for the sake of you...”* meaning all the redeemed, ransomed followers of Jesus.

It should also be considered that the phrase in the first part of verse 21: *“...who through Him...”* not only speaks of the way to saving belief in God, but also to the *power* to believe the gospel. Salvation is entirely the work of God, from the payment of the price to the power to believe. It is by His divine power through the working of the Holy Spirit that we come to faith in His work on the cross. We, by no means, come to this conclusion apart from the leading of the Holy Spirit through His conviction of our sin; forgiveness is appropriated by faith.

Our admiration and amazement of redemption leads us to the recognition and full understanding of the price Jesus paid for our salvation. Comprehending this truth motivates us to resist the world's system; what it offers through deception pales in comparison to the authentic truth of life in Christ.

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