

Redemption

“I would rather fail at a cause that is sure to succeed,
than succeed at a cause that is destined to fail.”

All the causes of men shall one day come to an end;
But the cause of Christ will come into its fullness when He returns as King.
Imagine the words of Peter being heard by the struggling saints, dispersed
because of persecution... They would be both comfort and exhortation.
How shall they live?

Today's Scripture is about living as Christians. [Outline and Verses]:

Living in discipline :13

13 Therefore, prepare 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.

Living in Holiness :14-16

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,
15 but ^alike the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;
16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

Living in Fear :17

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*;

Living Redeemed :18-21

18 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 foreknown 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.

Living in Loving Community :22-25

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,
23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

24 For,
 “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,
 AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.
 THE GRASS WITHERS,
 AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,
 25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.”
 And this is the word which was preached to you.

Today I will focus on the last two: our redemption in order to love one another.

I was reminded of a story from history – In 1824 Peru won its independence from Spain under the leadership of Simon Bolivar. Afterwards Bolivar called a convention for the purpose of drafting a constitution for the new country.

A delegation approach Bolivar and asked him to become their first president. Bolivar declined, saying that he felt someone else deserved the honor more than he did. The people still wanted to show their gratitude and brought him a gift of a million pesos, a very large fortune in those days.

Bolivar accepted the gift and then asked, “How many slaves are there in Peru?” to which they answered, “About 3,000.” Then he asked how much a slave would cost; “About 350 pesos for an able-bodied man” was the answer. “Then” said Bolivar, “I will add whatever is necessary to this million pesos you have given me, and I will buy all the slaves in Peru and set them free. It makes no sense to free a nation, unless all its citizens enjoy freedom as well.”

I. Living Redeemed

All believers have been redeemed from slavery to sin and death by Christ’s payment on the cross.

¹⁸knowing that you were not **redeemed**
 with perishable things like silver or gold
 from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹but with the **precious blood**
 as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ**.

1. We were redeemed

The word “redeemed” means

to be “set free by the payment of a ransom.”

redeemed (ἐλυτρώθητε). [Aorist, Passive]

It carries the idea of a ransom-price (λύτρον, from λύω, *to loose*).¹

This verb occurs only in these passages:

“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to **redeem** us from every lawless deed; and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:14)

“But we were hoping that it was He who was going to **redeem** Israel”
(Lk. 24:21)

In Matt. 20:28 Jesus says of Himself,

“...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Notice what we have been redeemed from:

Peter, “...your futile way of life...”

Wm. MacDonald says this is:

...your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers

The Holman Bible Commentary says,

The word redemption signifies liberation, and here Peter spoke of redemption “*from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers.*” The “emptiness” (*mataias*) of life is a theme mentioned often in Ecclesiastes. In the Old Testament it is often associated with the idolatry of pagans. Similarly, in the New Testament the word group depicts pre-Christian existence (Acts 14:15; Rom 1:21; Eph 4:17). The life of unbelievers before their conversion is futile, empty, and devoted to false gods.²

Simply put: Depravity is inherited. People are born sinners - slaves to sin.

We are born again to liberty when we come to know Christ, our Liberator.

2. We were redeemed by the blood of Christ.

¹ Vincent, M. R. (1887). [*Word studies in the New Testament*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 638). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

² Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [*1, 2 Peter, Jude*](#) (Vol. 37, p. 84). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

¹⁹ ... with the **precious blood**
as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ**.

Peter's description of Christ's blood pictures a sacrifice lamb. The heart of the matter is that Jesus was sinless: in the language of the Old Testament, He was a lamb without spot or blemish. We on the other hand, are sinful. We are all spots and blemishes. We are sinners who justly deserve death. (Begg)

John the Baptist identified Jesus Christ as
"...the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29)

Christ is the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb. Contrasted with the temporary riches of this world, Christ's blood is eternally valuable. A greater price could not be found.

Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free.
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

Christ's great accomplishment of Redemption was not an accident or a mistake, He was God's foreordained Redeemer.

²⁰For **He** was **foreknown** before the foundation of the world,
but has **appeared** in these last times for the sake of you
²¹who 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 death of Jesus Christ, planned prior to creation, was **for your sake**. We should not view Christ's death as an isolated, distant, impersonal event. Peter personalized the death of Christ for each of us. It is as if the entire purpose of God was planned and implemented specifically for each of us alone.³

Redemption through Jesus was God's plan for the salvation of mankind.

³ Walls, D., & Anders, M. (1999). [*I & II Peter, I, II & III John, Jude*](#) (Vol. 11, p. 14). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- **He was Foreknown:** “To designate beforehand.” [Wuest]

God assigned Jesus to pay sin’s price by His sacrificial death on a cross.

- He **appeared:**

In dying He bore sin’s penalty in our place

“...He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin.
He only could unlock the gate of heaven
And let us in

It is very humbling to recognize that for us to be put in a right relationship with God we need to know only two vital truths:

First, that we are great sinners;
and second, that Christ is a great Savior.

Peter ends: so that our faith and hope are in God.

A criminal finds himself in prison, locked in his cell. A visiting friend calls out to him: “I have good news for you.”

With eager expectation the prisoner demands: “What is it? Out with it!”

The answer comes, “Be good.” Well might that drive the prisoner mad?

Yet precisely that is the only message which some who call themselves evangelists have for the sinner. It is not good news. It is not news at all. Good news for the sinner is that provision has been made for his release from sin and hell.⁴

So, our faith and only hope are in God’s provision of Christ’s payment.

Someone put it this way,
Upon a life I did not live,
Upon a death I did not die,
Another’s life, another’s death,

⁴ R. B. Kuiper, *God-Centered Evangelism*, (Carlisle, Pa.: Banner of Truth, 1994), 155.

I stake my whole eternity.

Look at the end of the story of Redemption: Restoration.

When Christ returns He will undo everything sin has destroyed.

Jesus will set up His eternal kingdom where love reigns instead of sin.

Peter writes,

fix your hope completely on the grace
to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
(v. 13)

This is what we are anticipating. A kingdom of love.

To those receiving Peter's letter comes the application of love

II. Living in Love

The amazing purpose of redemption is to make loving others a reality.

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth
purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren,
fervently love one another from the heart,

Love always and only comes from a pure heart.

Paul writes,

“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (1 Tim. 1:5).

Redemption offers freedom; and freedom means a change from bondage to sin, an ability to love from the heart.

Paul wrote to the Galatians,

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Gal. 5:13)

Love by nature is unselfish; it builds up others by giving and serving.

Love always serves unselfishly.
 Redeemed believers we were purchased out of slavery to sin.
 They were freed in order to live in a new standard - love.

Look closely at Peter's exhortation

"...fervently love one another from the heart..."

Statements:

Declarative

Since you have purified your souls... in sincere love of the brethren,

Imperative (command)

then love one another fervently with a pure heart.

MacDonald says,

"The positional forms the basis for the practical. Our love should be warm, wholehearted, with all our strength, earnest, unceasing, and pure."⁵

The question is simply: What will you do with your freedom?

⁵ William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), p. 2256.