

Redeemed

1 Peter 1:18-21

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FOCAL Read Responsively 1 Peter 1:18-21

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; **(19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (20) Who** verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, **(21) Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

Illustrate We have seen many heroes fall in our lifetime. They have fallen in television, movies, and in the news. Human heroes fall and fail because, dear friends, they are *purely human*. Many were disturbed when **Tom Hanks**, a much loved movie star, attacked Christianity by playing the lead role in the fictionalized lie called *The DaVinci Code*. When the actor **Mel Gibson** recently was arrested on charges of public drunkenness many who had considered him to be a *hero of the faith* were devastated. How could Mel do such a thing after the phenomenal success of the movie *The Passion of Christ*? We have all had heroes among mankind that have turned out to have feet of clay. Only One Person has every – in the history of all humanity – maintained His hero status. There is only One Celebrity Who has always stood head and shoulders above all others, never failing, always faithful. That **Celebrity is Jesus Christ.**

Without the Lord Jesus Christ we who are believers would have no gospel. This is why Jesus and His Word are so attacked in the world today. People do not attack

the idea of “Jesus as a great mortal teacher”. Jesus is a great Teacher, the Greatest Teacher the world has ever known. But He did not come into this world to be a “great mortal teacher”. Jesus, by His own words, came into this world to **be lifted up on the Cross of Calvary**. He said:

John 12:27, 32-33 ... but for this cause came I unto this hour. if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me. (33) This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Why did Jesus come into this world?

Jesus came into this world to *die for the sins of the world*. He came to *shed His Blood* so that the *penalty for sin* could be paid. Man is a sinful creature, born from the stock of *fallen Adam and Eve*. God demanded that sin's penalty be paid for **by Blood**.

1. You Must Be Redeemed

FOCAL 1 Peter 1:18-21 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed** ...

Peter addressed the *believing Church*, reminding them that **God redeemed them from sin, providing a covering for their sin, by the shedding of the Blood of Christ**. The Devil will smile at much of the preaching that is done in the pulpits across America today. Why?

Because most of the preaching will address the *symptoms* of the problems we face in our lives, but will *never* get down to addressing the problem itself. Preachers will stand up and preach against drunkenness, lewdness, homosexuality, murder, abortion and the like. These things **SHOULD** be preached against, for they are all *works of the flesh that lead to death*. The Bible is so true when it says:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sin leads to death. But sin, dear Ones, is a *symptom* of the problem.

Mankind sins because mankind is *fallen from God, spiritually dead, quite naturally in an unredeemed state*. This is the **clear teaching of Scripture, and the clear teaching of that Master Teacher Jesus Christ**. He said:

John 8:34-36 ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. (35) And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: [but] the Son abideth ever. (36) If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Why do we have to be **redeemed** or **purchased back**?

God created all things perfectly, wonderfully, and in *six literal days*. In Genesis we read:

Genesis 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. **And the evening and the morning were the first day.**

This pattern of creation is repeated, **and the evening and the morning were the first day, and the evening and the morning were the second day (Genesis 1:8)**, showing that God created all that we see in *six literal days*. On the sixth day God created Adam and Eve, placed them in a perfect Garden, and gave them charge over all that was there. God concluded His creation with these words:

Genesis 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good. **And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**

Everything that was made was **very good**. There was no sin in creation, no evil, no death, no suffering. The God Who is perfect made everything perfect, pronounced it perfect, then turned the keys of creation over to Adam. Then Adam *blew it*.

He was given control of all things, but he turned control over to Satan when he *willingly followed another master* rather than *following God*. The Bible is clear – when Adam sinned he *brought death on all creation*. We are

told:

Romans 5:14 ... **death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.**

Adam sold himself and all of creation into sin by following Satan. His children would be born with a *sin nature*. You are not naturally a *good person*, but you are naturally a *sinner*. I am not saying that there are not morally good people, but I am saying that the Scripture teaches that *all are sold under sin, slaves of sin, servants of sin*.

Watch a *good person* long enough and you will see the evidence of sin in the life.

Watch a *hero* long enough and you will see some failing, some falling, some error.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 For since **by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

The first Adam brought death on all creation. He brought death on himself, he brought death on his wife, he

brought death on his children. He invited the devil into his house, and the devil took over. The death and dying that you now see in creation is *not of God's doing*, but it exists because the first Adam brought it on us all.

We had to be purchased back from the slave market of sin. We had to be redeemed from Satan's hold. How to do this?

a. God Provided A Temporary Shelter In The Law

Prior to the Cross of Calvary, God provided a temporary solution to mankind through the Law. Yet the Law was not a permanent solution.

Why was the Law only a *temporary covering* for sin?

FOCAL 1 Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things**, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers;

You could not be redeemed **with corruptible things**. All of creation fell under the weight of Adam's disobedience. If the Head be tainted, the whole will be tainted! Creation groans under the weight of sin. The Bible says:

Romans 8:20-21 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected [the

same] in hope, (21) Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Creation itself is bound under sin. Look out into the beautiful sunny day, and look at the beautiful green of the grass. Now look at that which is beneath your feet. Look at the frog or the insect struggling as another creature, the ant, eats it. Look into the wonderful rain forests, lush with orchids and flowers. Look at the beauties of the Serengeti. How lovely the hinds look, the antelope, the wild bison. Look yonder, and see the wild beast jump from the grasses and chase down the young fawn. Why is the young one dying under terrible suffering, under tooth and claw? Look at the great Continent of Africa where man kills man under so called *ethnic cleansing*. See the children starving, their bellies swollen, while people fight rather than farm, hurt rather than heal.

Can't you see the effects of sin in creation? Look!

You live in a *fool's paradise* if you believe in evolution, the gradual *betterment of creation by natural forces*. Show me betterment or improvement and I will agree with you – but you can find no such thing. **The wages of sin is death**, and we are receiving payment for what Adam brought into creation.

We cannot be redeemed with *sinful things*. We cannot

make ourselves better. **Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things.** Sinful cannot make payment for sinful. Something *from without of this sinful sphere must pay for sin.* That Something is the **Precious Blood of Christ.**

This is why the Law had to fail. The Law requires that *something from within this corrupt system pay for our sins.* We were to take the blood of animals and use that blood as a *covering for sin.* Yet the Creation itself is corrupt. You cannot pay the penalty for sin to a Perfect and Holy God if the payment itself is corrupt!

“The Bible plainly teaches that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Before Adam and Eve rebelled, animals ate only plants (Genesis 1:30). Death came as a result of sin and the curse: “For in the day that thou eatest thereof [the forbidden tree] thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17). The first death in all of creation occurred when God provided Adam and Eve animal skins for clothing. Sin always brings death. “By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12). Indeed “the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Romans 8:22). That this is not referring to spiritual death only is clear from our text, which deals with physical resurrection from the dead. Just as Adam’s sin brought death on all creation, so Christ’s resurrection brings victory over death.

But here is the problem. If death existed before Adam, then death is not the penalty for sin. How, then, did Christ’s death pay the penalty for our sin? If death is not tied to Adam’s sin, then life is not tied to Christ’s death and resurrection, and the Christian faith is all in vain. (John Morris, PhD)¹

The Law was therefore **a curse to us.** It dictated a payment, but that which it dictated had to be paid over, and over, and over again. Jesus Christ REDEEMED US FROM SIN. The Bible says:

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:

b. God Provided A Permanent Shelter Only In Christ

Why was Jesus' payment satisfactory whereas the payment of the animal offered was unsatisfactory? Because Jesus Christ *is Eternal God made flesh for us.*

The Bible is clear that God came from *outside this sinful system* and entered *into this system* to make payment for us.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and

¹ In *Days of Praise*, <http://tmatt.gospelcom.net/column/1997/01/15/>

to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

If you have *repented* – that is, surrendered your life to God – and have *believed on the Lord Jesus Christ* then God has applied the *redemption price to your lives*. You have been redeemed:

FOCAL 1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were **not redeemed with corruptible things**, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; (19) But **with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

Jesus Christ *died once and for all for you*. The Bible says:

Hebrews 9:11-12 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (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].

Jesus Christ died on Calvary, shedding His Blood for you. He entered into this sin soaked system, keeping Himself pure. He lived, walked among us, then went to Calvary *willingly*, shedding His Blood for you. If you have believed in Him, turning away from your former way of life and toward God, then *you are forever saved*. The payment made for you is *not corruptible*, does not wear out with time, lasts forever – blessed be the Name of God! How long does this redeeming payment last?

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Like the old song goes:

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.
Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am.²

2. The Blood That Redeems Has Cleansing Power

FOCAL 1 Peter 1:19 ... with **the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish**

² Words: Fanny Crosby, in Songs of Redeeming Love, by John R. Sweney, C. C. McCabe, Tullius O’Kane, and William Kirkpatrick (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1882). Music: William J. Kirkpatrick

and without spot:

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh [is] in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it [is] the blood [that] maketh an atonement for the soul.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

What is one of the *titles* for the Believer in Christ?
Why is this?

The **Blood maketh atonement for the soul**. One of the titles given to the believer is Christ is **the redeemed**. If you have been redeemed, then you have been cleansed. Nothing will bring a person into union with God but the shed Blood of Christ. If you have been saved, you can sit under the shadow of the Cross and say "I am safe, I am safe".

Immediately following their sin the Bible tells us that Adam and Eve:

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the

trees of the garden.

Why did they do this? They did it for the same reason that people hide themselves from God today. People develop strange doctrines like *evolution* and the like because they want a covering for their sin. When God reveals Himself to you, you find yourself like Isaiah in the Temple, crying out to Him:

Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

You must have the Blood of Christ for your covering, or you are unclean still before God. That Blood has cleansing power!

a. The Blood is Precious In It's Power:

FOCAL 1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold,** from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; (19) **But with the precious blood of Christ,** as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Why is the Blood precious? What does that say to me?

People regard **silver and gold** to be precious, and so they chase after it. Yet silver and gold will not bring peace within. The Blood is precious *because of it's Source*. God gave Himself for you! God gave His Only Begotten Son for You! There is coming a day when the unbelieving world will be confronted by God and be found wanting. The Bible warns that on that Great Day:

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

What will write your names in that Book? Will *works* do it? No, not at all! A Christian *should work for God and love God*. Jesus has told us:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Once Christ is in your lives you will love Him and keep His commandments. But He must first be in your lives if you are to be saved! You are *purchased with the Precious Blood of Christ* – **this makes you precious in the sight of God!** You belong to GOD now, not to SIN! You belong to LOVE now, not to LUST. Love purchased you – you belong to Him. As it is written:

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that

neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

b. The Blood is Personal In It's Power:

FOCAL 1 Peter 1:18, 20 ... **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things,** [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; ... (20) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was **manifest in these last times for you,**

The Blood of Christ *is a very personal thing*. You yourselves must make the decision to believe in and respond to God our Savior. APATHY and SALVATION are mutually exclusive! When **God sent the death angel over Egypt** the Israelites were protected *only* when they responded to God's command:

Exodus 12:12-13 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I [am] the LORD. (13) And the blood shall be to

you for a token upon the houses where ye [are]: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy [you], when I smite the land of Egypt.

If God does not see the Blood in your lives, then you are *yet bound to death*. Your final resting place is a Lake called **the Second Death**. The Bible tells us:

Revelation 21:6-8 {God} said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. (7) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (8) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Oh My Beloved, if you have been redeemed you have been freed from the Second Death. If not, if you have not trusted your lives to Christ, then you will have your inheritance not in Heaven but in **the Lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death**. If you have *personally accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and*

Lord you will never see the Lake of death. If not, you are condemned where you are now – I beg you, give your lives to Him this very day!

c. The Blood Is Pleading In It's Power:

FOCAL 1 Peter 1:21 **Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

The Blood of Christ has a *pleading power*, as it cries out to you **that your faith and hope might be in God**. We as humans have a tendency to put our faith and hope in *anything but God*. We trust in doctors, lawyers, preachers, heroes, politicians, scientists but when do we trust in God? The Blood that was shed for you should remind you *how much God loves you!*

Following Adam's sin two brothers got into an argument. As a result **Cain murdered Abel**, and God said to Cain:

Genesis 4:10 ... What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

The Blood of Abel plead for vengeance What does the Blood of Christ plead for?

Abel's Blood cried out to God, *avenge me*. The Blood of Christ shed for you cries out to God, *forgive me, in*

Jesus' Name! The Blood cries to you, calling you to salvation. Once saved, the Blood cries out FOR you, making intercession for you before The Holy and Righteous God. We are told in Scripture:

Hebrews 12:24-25 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than [that of] Abel. (25) See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more [shall not] we [escape], if we turn away from him that [speaketh] from heaven:

The Blood of Christ pleads to you. What is required of you? Repent, stop trying to save yourselves. Trust in Him, turning away from your old way of life, and taking Him into your life. The Way of Sin is *unprofitable*, the Way of Satan *leads to death*. The Way of Christ is *trust* in Him, give your lives to Him, obey Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: (15) And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Have you believed on Him? He pleads for thee. If you have believed on Jesus, then you are saved. You are His, because He is in your lives. His Blood, a testimony of His Love, was shed for you. **Your faith and hope must be in God, else you are undone.** Trust Him, give yourselves to Him. He pleads for you, Beloved – will you not answer? May God touch your hearts with these words.