

**"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"**

**Part 8**

**1 Peter 1:1-2:10**

**Introduction:** In our study of 1 Peter, we are looking at Peter's call to believers to walk in holiness. Last week we considered how holiness is expected of us regardless of what we face. There is not one situation which you will ever face in life that will justify unholy living. Those who received Peter's letter were under the persecution of Nero.

**Revelation 2:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup> And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

*<sup>9</sup> I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

*<sup>10</sup> Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

The saints at Smyrna were called to be faithful unto death in the face of severe persecution.

➤ **Living a Life of Holiness**

In 1 Peter 1:13-16 Peter gave his readers 5 exhortations in the face of the persecution they were facing.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:13**

1. Gird up the loins of your mind.
2. Be sober
3. Fix your HOPE on the grace to come.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:14**

4. Do NOT be conformed to sinful desires.

**Notice 1 Peter 1:15-16**

5. Be holy.

Peter then moves on and gives to us solid motivation for living holy lives.

➤ **Motivation for Holiness**

**1. The Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ.**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:17**

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight which is the second motivation.

**2. The Cost of Salvation.**

**Notice 1 Peter 1:18-19**

Peter will now show us the great cost of our redemption to motivate us to a life of holiness. He will begin by explaining what we were NOT redeemed with. But before we get to this, I want to consider the thought of redemption. To be redeemed is to "be bought with a price". In Peter's day there were many slaves, and many were sold in the slave market. People would bid on the slaves and depending upon the age and the physical condition of the slave these would determine the cost. A young healthy slave would bring much more than a crippled and aged slave. Some of the slaves were purchased and then they were set free. In some cases, the freed slave would choose to stay with the one who purchased his freedom out of love for what he had done for him. This was not a common practice, but it did happen.

So, when the Bible tells us we were redeemed it has the very same idea as this. We were slaves to sin, and God bought us, and He has set us free. We were so enslaved to sin that we could not possibly get free on our own. We could do nothing but sin. We were born into sin and we were trapped.

**Romans 6:17-20**

*<sup>17</sup> But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

*<sup>18</sup> Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

*<sup>19</sup> I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

*<sup>20</sup> For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

God was the only One who could set us free, and He did. Now, we should long to live for Him who set us free from the power and the penalty of sin.

Notice the illustration by Leslie B. Flynn.

*"An orphaned boy was living with his grandmother when their house caught fire. The grandmother, trying to get upstairs to rescue the boy, perished in the flames. The boy's cries for help were finally answered by a man who climbed an iron drainpipe and came back down with the boy hanging tightly to his neck.*

*Several weeks later, a public hearing was held to determine who would receive custody of the child. A farmer, a teacher, and the town's wealthiest citizen all gave the reasons they felt they should be chosen to give the boy a home. But as they talked, the lad's eyes remained focused on the floor. Then a stranger walked to the front and slowly took his hands from his pockets, revealing severe scars on them. As the crowd gasped, the boy cried out in recognition. This was the man who had saved his life. His hands had been burned when he climbed the hot pipe. With a leap the boy threw his arms around the man's neck and held on for dear life. The other men silently walked away, leaving the boy and his rescuer alone. Those marred hands had settled the issue.*

*Many voices are calling for our attention. Among them is the One whose nail-pierced hands remind us that He has rescued us from sin and its deadly consequences. To Him belongs our love and devotion."*

### **Notice 1 Peter 1:18**

Peter reminds his readers that they were not redeemed with "corruptible" things such as silver and gold. These are the two things the world sees as the most desirable, but Peter reminds us that silver and gold are corruptible. The word "corruptible" means "perishing". The thought here is a great reminder to all of us. What the world sees as being valuable such as silver and gold, will all one day perish. The gold in heaven will be used to pave the streets.

### **Notice 1 Peter 1:18 again.**

Here we see some of what we were redeemed from. We were redeemed from our "vain lifestyle that we inherited from our fathers". The word "vain" means "empty". Before we were saved, we lived lives of emptiness. We did all we could to fill that emptiness with the stuff of the world such as money, entertainment, recreation, work and so on.

### **Hebrews 2:14-15**

*<sup>14</sup> Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

*<sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Now we have been redeemed from the emptiness and given a life of fulness and satisfaction. Our empty life was "**received by tradition from our fathers**".

Our first father Adam passed on to us the inheritance of a sin nature that seeks to live for self and which leads to an empty and worthless life that is in turn is passed down to the next generation along with teaching, example, and environment. Every beautiful baby is tragically, born in sin, coming into life with a sin nature and if the parents are unsaved, comes into a home where evil traditions and practices are observed. What the child inherits, Peter calls a vain manner of life. From this vain manner of life, the recipients of this letter were delivered. No matter how "good" our home life was we were still sinners and we inherited from our fathers the practice of an empty life combined with the sin nature. We were basically going nowhere, but straight to hell.

This is what we have been redeemed from.

## **Notice 1 Peter 1:19**

We were not redeemed with silver and gold but with something far more valuable and that was the blood of Jesus Christ. There would never have been enough silver and gold in the world to buy us out of slavery because God required the blood of an innocent sacrifice to set us free.

## **Hebrews 9:22**

*<sup>22</sup> And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

What a contrast with the pagan world, where little silver and gold coins would buy the freedom of slaves in Rome. Only the precious blood of Christ was of sufficient worth in the Father's eyes to purchase once for all time the freedom of men and women bound in the chains of their own sin nature inherited from Adam.

Notice the song that will be sung in heaven for all eternity.

## **Revelation 5:8-13**

<sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

<sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

<sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

<sup>11</sup> And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

<sup>12</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

<sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Let us look closer at the word "precious" in 1 Peter 1:19. The word means "costly or of high value".

#### Leviticus 17:11a

<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh is in the blood:

Let us consider just how precious the blood of Jesus is by considering what His blood does for us:

1. The blood redeems us.

#### Ephesians 1:7

<sup>7</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

2. The blood cleanses us.

#### Revelation 7:14

<sup>14</sup> And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The blood of Jesus Christ is so powerful that there is not one spot to be found on any believer.

**3. The blood preserves us.**

**Exodus 12:13**

<sup>13</sup> 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.

**1 John 1:7**

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

**4. The blood has overcoming power.**

**Revelation 12:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Notice the words of Spurgeon:

"He that fights with the precious blood of Jesus, fights with a weapon that will cut through soul and spirit, joints and marrow, a weapon that makes hell tremble, and makes heaven subservient, and earth obedient to the will of the men who can wield it. The blood of Jesus! sin dies at its presence, death ceases to be death: hell itself would be dried up if that blood could operate there. The blood of Jesus! heaven's gates are opened; bars of iron are pushed back. The blood of Jesus! my doubts and fears flee, my troubles and disasters disappear. The blood of Jesus! shall I not go on conquering and to conquer so long as I can plead that!"

**5. The blood grants us entrance into the presence of God.**

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

*<sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

*<sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

*<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Conclusion:**

**2 Corinthians 5:**

*<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

*<sup>15</sup> 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.*