

Opening Remarks: “Open your Bibles to 1 Peter...”

THEME: The plan of God for the salvation of souls is both truly awesome and beyond human comprehension. God is pure and just and holy, but unsaved people are callous and rebellious and dead in their trespasses and sins. Without Christ we are without hope and incapable of putting ourselves in a right relationship with our Creator. We can't buy God's forgiveness, we don't deserve His mercy, and we can't live a better lifestyle so as to earn His favor. AND YET, God has made a way for forgiveness through faith alone in His Son Jesus Christ!

**When you believe in Christ, you've been ransomed with blood.
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READ: 1 Peter 1:1-21

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*; **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.

OUTLINE / POINTS:

- I. **God's Impartial Judgment - (vs.17)**
- II. **Our Sinful Living - (vs.18)**
- III. **Christ's Precious Blood - (vs.19)**
- IV. **The Revealed Savior - (vs.20)**
- V. **Our Glorious God - (vs.21)**

PREACHING NOTES:

I. God's Impartial Judgment (vs.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*;

"If you address as Father"

- QUESTION: Who is your God?
- The phrase implies all believers are to address God in this way.
- Jesus instructed the disciples to pray, "*Our Father who is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:9)
- Galatians 4:6 "*Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'*"

"the One who impartially judges"

- Frankly, one of the most frightening truths for the unsaved is that God judges thoroughly, justly, and WITHOUT partiality.
- 'impartiality' - God doesn't hold to double standards.
- People don't want human judges who show partiality, and it would be infinitely worse to have a God who judged with double standards.
- Because God judges, he thoroughly reviews all evidence (motivation, intent, deeds).
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*"

"according to each one's work,"

- God will judge you based upon your own work, not in "groups" with other people.
- 1 Corinthians 4:5 "*Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.*"

“conduct yourselves in fear”

- Control yourself and your actions!
- “fear” - reverence, awe, and respect.
- Proverbs 9:10 *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*
- Proverbs 14:26-27 *“In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death.”*
- Proverbs 19:23 *“The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.”*
- ILLUSTRATION: I have electricity in my house with outlets in every room. I’m not scared or afraid of the electricity, but I do treat it with respect and not foolishness.

“during the time of your stay on earth;”

- For the rest of your life.
- QUESTION: How long will you live? Have you thought about that?

II. Our Sinful Living (vs.18)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

“knowing”

- “knowing” - a settled conclusion, based upon weighing the evidence.
- QUESTION: Have you considered the immense value of what it took to redeem you?

“that you were not redeemed with perishable things”

- “redeemed” - an essential feature of salvation; deals specifically with the cost of salvation and the means by which God received payment.
- “redeemed” - to purchase release by paying a ransom; to deliver by the payment of a price.
- To the Greeks - used to describe paying money to buy back a prisoner of war.
- Thomas Watson (Puritan) - *“Great was the work of creation, but greater the work of redemption; it cost more to redeem us than to make us; in the one there was but the speaking of a Word, in the other the shedding of blood.”*
- “perishable” - time sensitive, won’t pass the test of eternity; no lasting substance.

“like silver or gold”

- These have tremendous value in our world, but are entirely of no value — whatsoever — when trying to pay for a human soul.

“from your futile way of life”

- “futile” - vain, empty, useless, and worthless.
- John MacArthur: *“No matter what they may think, every unredeemed man or woman is living a futile life.”*
- Matthew 16:26 *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

“inherited from your forefathers,”

- ‘Traditional Religion’ has no value and can even become a blockage of truth.
- The refers to Judaism; trying to earn salvation by keeping the Law.
- Matthew 15:7-9 *“You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’”*

III. Christ’s Precious Blood (vs.19)

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

“but with precious blood,”

- As opposed to the worthless, perishable silver and gold mentioned earlier.
- “blood” is a synonym for sacrificial death involving the shedding of blood.

“as of a lamb”

- When it came to sin offerings, bulls, goats, and lambs were the required sacrifices.
- Leviticus 4:32-35 *“But if he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring it, a female without defect. He shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slay it for a sin offering in the place where they slay the burnt offering. The priest is to take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and all the rest of its blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar. Then he shall remove all its fat, just as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offerings, and the priest shall offer them up in smoke on the altar, on the offerings by fire to the Lord. Thus the priest shall make atonement for him in regard to his sin which he has committed, and he will be forgiven.”*

“unblemished and spotless,”

- Deuteronomy 17:1 “You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep which has a blemish or any defect, for that is a detestable thing to the Lord your God.”
- Jesus Christ —> 2 Corinthians 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

“the blood of Christ.”

- “Christ” - Messiah or Coming One.
- Refers not so much to the fluid but the whole of His redemptive death.
- Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.”
- Bible refers to Christ’s blood nearly three times as often as the cross; five times more often than it refers to the death of Christ.
- Hebrews 9:22 “And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

IV. The Revealed Savior (vs.20)

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

“For He was foreknown”

- Means “before knowledge,” in that God knows all things before they happen.
- The phrase literally means, “he having been foreknown.” It means that God clearly planned to send the Son as the Redeemer, and that it wasn’t an afterthought once The Fall happened in the Garden of Eden.
- c.f. 1 Peter 1:2 “foreknowledge of God”

“before the foundation of the world,”

- Even before the creation there was the Sinless Savior Jesus Christ, waiting to appear.

“but has appeared in these last times”

- Refers to making something clear or manifest.
- Is an aorist passive, which denotes a historical event—in this context—the Son becoming human.
- Philippians 2:5-8 *“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*
- “last times” - entire period between the birth of Christ and the second coming.

“for the sake of you”

- Refers to all of the redeemed.

V. Our Glorious God (vs. 21)

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.

“who through Him”

- This proves the exclusivity of the gospel as the only way of salvation.
- John 14:6 *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

“are believers in God,”

- Present tense, not past or future tense.
- Anyone who goes “through Him” is automatically a believer (i.e. Christian).

“who raised Him from the dead”

- Romans 1:4 *“who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord”*

“and gave Him glory,”

- Refers to the ascension and exaltation.
- Philippians 2:9-11 *“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

“so that your faith and hope”

- “faith” enables believers to trust God for necessary grace in the midst of life’s circumstances, struggles, and anxieties.
- Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*
- “hope” enables belief in future grace, to be revealed for them in heavenly glory.
- Psalm 49:15 *“But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol”*
- Romans 8:23-25 *“And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”*
- Philippians 3:20-21 *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”*
- 1 John 3:2-3 *“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”*

“are in God.”

- QUESTION: In who or what is your faith and hope?
- God the Father — Creator, Ruler, and Lord over Heaven and Earth.

Application:

**When you believe in Christ, you've been ransomed with blood.
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1. By faith your eternal home will be Heaven, but your works will determine — not your eternal destination — but the reward you receive in Heaven! Therefore, conduct yourself here with Holy Fear.
2. Silver and gold has value, but none whatsoever in glory. Focus on the imperishable payment in glory, rather than being consumed with the accumulation of the world's wealth here and now.
3. You've either been ransomed with the blood of Jesus Christ or you're still dead in your trespasses and sins. Which one is it?
4. Jesus appeared, died, and rose from the dead — for you! Is this knowledge impacting how you live your life?
5. There are lots of people in the world who claim to believe in God but if they don't believe in Jesus — they are idolaters!

CONCLUSION: **John 20:26-31**

26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.