

THEME: When you believe in Christ, you've be ransomed with blood.

1 Peter 1:17-21

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)**

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?

- 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.

- 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,"

- 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 for holiness!

- "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.*"
- c.f. Proverbs 14:26-27; 19:23

“during the time of your stay on earth;” - QUESTION: How long will you live?

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” - Have you considered the immense value of what it took to redeem you?

“that you were not redeemed with perishable things”

- **“redeemed”** - to purchase release by paying a ransom; to deliver by the payment of a price.
- **“perishable”** - time sensitive, won't pass the test of eternity; no lasting substance.

“like silver or gold” - Tremendous value in our world, but no value — whatsoever — when trying to pay for a human soul.

“from your futile way of life” - **“futile”** - vain, empty, useless, and worthless.

- 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 to redemption.

- 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 perishable silver and gold.

- **“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. (c.f. Leviticus 4:32-35)

“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.

- 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.

- 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”

- 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,” - 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.
- “hope” enables belief in future grace, to be revealed for them in heavenly glory.
- c.f. Psalm 49:15; Romans 8:23-25; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2-3

“are in God.” - QUESTION: In who or what is your faith and hope?

Application:

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 20:26-29

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.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you believe you’re living your life in the fear of God? Why or why not? Discuss what it means to fear God, and whether it is proper to even fear God at all.
2. Discuss the futility of “religion” and why it doesn’t achieve the righteousness of God.
3. Discuss why it is so important that Jesus is unblemished and undefiled, when it comes to His precious blood and the payment for our sins.
4. Discuss the exclusivity of getting to God through Jesus Christ alone. Why don’t other ways (i.e. world religions) get the worshipper to the true God?
5. What does it mean that your faith and hope are in God? Discuss what your faith and hope were like before salvation, and now that you are saved.