

God's Redemption Plan

1Peter 1:18-21

Salvation is a great and comprehensive subject to speak about. It's a glorious topic in which we find ourselves in our current study of 1Peter. It's a saving message of how God because of his great mercy has caused us to be BORN AGAIN. It's a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. We are guaranteed that we are saved for an inheritance. An inheritance that's imperishable, undefiled, unfading and reserved in heaven for us. Concerning this salvation, the Prophets of old have made careful inquiries and it attracted the attention of angels who long to look into the subject. It's a compelling message. Compelling us to set our hope fully on the grace that will be brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Compelling us to be holy and conduct ourselves with reverential fear before our Father in Heaven. This is a brief summary of what we've covered thus far.

Now, How are we actually saved? What is the means by which we are reconciled to God? How does it happen?

We've already seen some important words in the first 17 verses to indicate how we are saved.

- **Elect** (v.1) If God did not "choose" those who are his, no one would respond in saving faith.
- **Born Again** (v.3) No one is saved unless they are "born again".
- **Faith** (vv.5,7) **Believe** (v.8) believe in him
- **HOLY SPIRIT** (v.12) no one is saved apart from the work of the Spirit
- **Gospel, or good news** (v.12) no one is saved apart from the preaching of the good news of Christ, His life, death, resurrection, and ascension.... Preaching of the cross

There is a very important word that helps to show us HOW GOD SAVED US. It's how we are saved.

REDEMPTION

Look at v.18 READ it from the King James ----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;

Most versions have the word "redeemed". To save us, God must REDEEM us.

What does "redeem" mean? Redeem - to set free by a ransom paid

Today – we often think of hostages.... That's happening right now in the Middle East.

Demands are made, innocent people are used as bargaining chips.... Demanding some type of ransom, or certain conditions before they are released.

Also, today we hear of ransomware... a malicious softwareblocks you from having access, requiring you to "pay a price" a ransom to get your computer unblocked...

The idea of redemption is where you have a person captured and put into a slave market. Someone comes and pays a price, a ransom, to redeem that slave and brings them out of the slave market, and sets them FREE.

It's the idea of having prisoners of war....they are released when a ransom has been paid.

This is the message of the Bible. The message of Redemption. A well-know example is taught in the book of Exodus. You can remember the message of Exodus because it begins with EX like the various "exit" signs we have over our exit doors. It's going out.

Exodus, chapter 12 is the story of redemption... God's chosen people, the children of Israel were redeem from the bondage of Egypt. They had served as slaves under the Pharaoh of Egypt. The night before they left, a Passover Lamb was sacrificed, the blood of that lamb was to be brushed on the door post of their houses. God would send the Angel of Death to kill all the firstborn of Egypt. When God saw the blood on the door post of homes, He would PASS OVER the homes with the first born spared. Judgement was coming. The Passover Lamb's blood served as the redemption price rescuing the Israelites from judgment and setting them free from their life of slavery in Egypt.

This is a picture of Jesus who is our Passover Lamb. Jesus is the Lamb John the Baptist spoke of when he said, "*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29) Jesus shed His blood on Calvary's cross, purchasing our redemption as slaves to SIN. Because of Christ we are set free to be Slaves of righteousness. His blood, His death paid the ransom price to God.

Looking now at 1Peter 1:18 we will look first at...

1. The Purpose for Redemption v.18

Ransomed, or "redeemed" from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers. KJ "vain conversation" Conversation meaning, your manner of life....you received from the traditions of your father.

The PURPOSE of redemption is to REDEEM us from the futile, or empty way of life..... Someone might think, What's so wrong with the life I inherited from my forefathers....?? You follow our family tree it goes all the way back to Adam. We inherited Adam's sinful nature.

- All have sinned and come short of the glory of God

In Christ we have been REDEEMED from that empty way of life. **LOOK at v.14** "...do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance."

NASB - As obedient children, do not be conformed to **the former lusts** which were yours in your ignorance,

The Purpose for Redemption is to SET US free from that FORMER LUSTS....Lust dominates the unbelieving world.

- Lust of the eyes.... Desiring to possess something that's not of God.... going into forbidden territory, and lusting for that which is wicked,
- Evil imagination..... thinking which is selfish, ungodly, wicked,
- Heart is desperately wicked.
- But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

Most people don't see a need for Salvation. Saved from what? They don't see themselves in jeopardy. They think they are alright.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way *which seems* right to a person,
But its end is the way of death.

Even though we as a Believer have remaining sin, we are not SLAVES to sin like the unregenerate. Redemption means Christ has redeemed us from Who we were in our unregenerated condition. We still sin, but it's different. Our old self has been given a death blow when Jesus died on the cross. The slavery to sin is over. That's not true with people outside of Christ. They are powerless in their fallen condition.

There is a difference between the regenerate and the unregenerate. We are no longer under the mastery of sin. As **Thomas Watson** said in his book, "Body of Divinity"... "Sin may rage in a child of God, but not reign." "Sin lives in a child of God, but is deposed from the throne; it lives not as a king, but a captive."¹

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin....

2Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

The slavery to sin is OVER. We are no longer slaves to sin, but what about our status with God. Are we still "guilty" of our sins, and will we stand before God one day...and hear him say I saved you, but you are still GUILTY.

NO ! We are REDEEMED from the GUILT that hung over us.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

In Christ the verdict is NOT GUILTY! You are FREE. If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.

2. The Price of Redemption

¹ Body of Divinity, Thomas Watson, page 210

not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the **precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

- The Price is not with perishable things such as silver or gold
- You can't buy redemption with money. If you had all the silver, all the gold in the world, it would not even be enough for a down payment to redeem even ONE lost soul.
- You can't purchase redemption with anything you have, or anything you might contribute to God. Spiritually speaking, we are bankrupt. We are totally deprived of goodness, and of anything worthy enough to contribute to our redemption.
- People think getting access to God's Heaven is by "tipping the balance" in their favor. They see this balance....one side is all your badness....on the other side is all your goodness. If they can do good things, say good things, do good things to tip the scales toward FAVOR with God, then they feel confident they will be accepted into Heaven.
- Problem--- we have NO goodness to contribute. All our supposedly righteousness is as filthy rags in God's eyes.

The Price for our Redemption is through the Blood of Jesus..... **SEE v.19**

Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

What about all those sacrifices in the Old Testament....did sacrificial animals do anything to earn someone access into God's Heaven?????

Hebrews 9:12 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.

Precious blood --- like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. It was required to give the best lamb in your flock. No blemishes...no spots... no defects... nothing wrong physically.... Jesus was the PERFECT, SINLESS LAMB of GOD.... he did not have a Sin nature. He did no sin. Never committed a sin.... Totally HOLY, PURE, PERFECT SON of MAN.... Perfect Lamb of God.

3. The Purchaser of our Redemption v.20

HE was foreknown..... this is Jesus Christ our Lord.... He purchased our Redemption with His own blood.... His death purchased our redemption.

It was God's last minute PLAN to fix things.

NO... Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world.... He was the LAMB slain before the foundation of the World.

Acts 20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with** His own blood.

The Purchase was decided in Eternity Past. In the Eternal decrees of the Godhead, Jesus purchased our redemption. Christ made the purchase.

4. The People of Redemption..... Who did Jesus redeem? **V.20c** "for the sake of you"

You (all the Redeemed) (also v.21... "believers in God"....)

Jesus redeems every believer in God. Peter uses the word "elect" in v.1 Jesus redeems all the elect of God. Who are the elect? They are believers in Christ from every tribe, every tongue, nation, every kind of people in the world. When Jesus died on the cross, He purchased an actual salvation for the redeemed, not a potential salvation. His atonement was an actual atonement, not a potential atonement. God is not in Heaven wringing his hands, "I hope they will choose me." The Foundations in Heaven are not shaking because of man's unbelief.... *God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his, (2Tim. 2:19)*

Everyone who wants to be saved, can be saved. Nothing prevents a soul from coming to Christ except their own unbelief. Jesus went in to the slave market and paid the ransom price. He paid the *redemption price* for His Redeemed. When Jesus left the slave market, He left with what He paid for.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told Joseph

Matthew 1:20-21 do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for **he will save his people** from their sins.

It's not that Jesus will "TRY" to save his people.... Or Jesus will make salvation possible for his people..... No... Jesus will Actually SAVE his people from their sins.

We can preach with confidence, pray with confidence, witness with confidence, that Christ will save, and redeem those Who He has determined to save. God does not save a person against their own will. He changes their will.

Jesus has promised -- All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. **(John 6:37)**

5. Provision of Redemption

What does Redemption provide?

Believers in God. We've said this already. A redeemed soul becomes a "believing" soul. Notice, how it reads (v.21) *who through him are believers in God.* If you think becoming a "believer in God" is something you did on your own. You just simply thought it out, put 2 and 2 together, it seemed logical, it seemed the right thing to do...so one day you became a BELIEVER.

Not so, apart from a supernatural work of God, the work of the Holy Spirit, the work of regeneration, the new birth.... You THROUGH HIM are believers in God. If we mentally pulled ourselves up by our own bootstraps and declare ourselves "believers", then who gets the credit?

It's through Christ, you become "believers in God". **NOTICE v.21**...who raised him...gave him glory

The same God that raised Jesus from the dead.

The same God who gave him glory referring to his ascension to Heaven..... **is the same God who enables us to Believe.**

Here's the evidence that we are **Believers in God**... v.21c "...so that your faith and hope are in God."

- 1) **Faith in God** - we have faith in Godwe need faith that God will meet our needs. We need faith that God will give us sufficient grace for the trials of life. We need faith for every circumstances we encounter.

Everytime something tragic happens, we fall upon God who we have come to believe is sovereign... HE is on the throne. He is still in charge. When things seem out of control, God is in control.

Philippians 5:6

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- 2) **Hope** -- this is future faith God will take care of all of our future. All of our tomorrows. That doesn't mean we become lazy and not plan, and try to prepare for what might happen. We are not to get overwhelmed by all the possible things that might happen. You can prepare....but only God can sustain us for the things we were not prepared for, and could never be prepared for.

We don't understand why certain things happen, but *we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* (Romans 8:28)

Faith and Hope -

John Macarthur - "By faith, saints presently enjoy the redemption of the soul ("the first fruits of the Spirit"), and by hope they anticipate the redemption of the body from all remaining effects of the Fall."²

² John Macarthur, commentary, 1Peter pg. 85