

**Subject: Redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ**

**Scripture: 1 Peter 1:17-21**

In 1:17 Peter introduces the fact that God's people are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. "Forasmuch as (because) you know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ..." This is the main thought of verses 18-19. Since Peter speaks of being redeemed without any explanation of that word, we can assume these readers know what he meant. But we can't assume that everyone in the church now understands what is meant by redemption, so that's a good place to begin.

### **1. The meaning of redemption**

This is a theme that is found in all of Scripture. The concept of redemption is found in many places in the Old Testament. One type of redemption has to do with the kinsman-redeemer, like we see in the book of Ruth. The kinsman-redeemer had the responsibility and privilege to care for a widow in his family when her husband died and she had no children to care for her. A man who was nearest of kin ("kinsman-redeemer") came to her aid to marry her and care for her.

In the New Testament redemption is understood in a different context. It has to do with the purchase of slaves in the marketplace. To be redeemed is to be set free from sin and then become a servant of Christ. Believers are in bondage to sin and have been bought by a new master, Jesus Christ.

### **2. The price of redemption**

Our text says that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. The price paid to redeem sinners was an infinite price. Much more valuable than anything else, even precious things like silver and gold. Peter uses the word "precious" several times in his letters. "Precious" means something of great cost, of high value. Peter writes about "precious faith" (1:7; 2 Pet. 1:1); Christ as "the precious cornerstone" (2:6-7); God's "precious promises" (2 Pet. 1:4); and "the precious blood of Christ" (1:19), as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross is described several ways in Scripture: 1) atonement to remove the guilt and penalty of sin; 2) propitiation to remove God's wrath against sin; 3) reconciliation to remove enmity and alienation from God; and 4) redemption to release sinners from the bondage of sin

The truth of blood redemption takes us back to the days of animal sacrifices when the priests offered the blood of lambs to make atonement for sin.

***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 atonement for the soul.*

Blood represents life, and so the shedding of blood represents the sacrifice giving his life for the sinner. Christ is the Lamb of God who poured out His life blood on the cross to make atonement for our soul. His blood was the price of our redemption. His blood was a ransom paid to set us free from sin's curse and bondage. This begs a question: To whom was the ransom price paid? Not to Satan because God owes him nothing. Satan never has been in a position to make demands of God. The ransom price was paid to God to satisfy His justice.

The theme of Christ's sacrifice for the redemption of His people is prominent in the NT.

***Matthew 20:28*** *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

*Acts 20:28* Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

*Romans 5:9* Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

*Galatians 3:13* Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.

*Ephesians 1:7* In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

*Colossians 1:14* In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

*Revelation 5:9* 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.

### **3. The plan of redemption**

God's plan to redeem sinners was an eternal plan, not an emergency plan (see vs. 20). The "who" is Christ and He was foreordained (chosen, selected by the Father) before the foundation of the world (the beginning of creation), but He was manifested (revealed) in these last times for you (believers). Christ's ministry on earth, death, and resurrection inaugurated the final stage of redemptive history. We have been living in the last times ever since Christ came to earth the first time.

*Hebrews 1:1-2* <sup>1</sup> God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

### **4. The purpose of redemption**

The great purpose of redemption is that sinners might be redeemed from sin by Christ. This purpose is accomplished by the shedding of Christ's blood so that we might believe in Him and have hope in Him. By faith sinners trust in Christ to set them free from sin and serve Him as our new master. And by faith we expect Christ to redeem our soul and body for eternity. So redemption affects our present and our future life.

When we trust in Christ as Lord and Savior and by His finished work on the cross we ARE redeemed. The Bible also says that we WILL BE redeemed.

*Romans 8:23 (ESV)* And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

The souls of all God's people are already redeemed and our bodies will be redeemed in the resurrection. How do you know for sure you are redeemed?

- You are aware of your need of Christ the Redeemer.
- You are trusting Christ as the one and only Redeemer.
- You are obeying and serving Christ as your Redeemer and Master.
- You are thanking and rejoicing in Christ as your Redeemer.
- You are glorifying God as your Redeemer

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20* <sup>19</sup> What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.