

Your Freedom, With Love

I Peter 1:18-20

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I Peter 1:18-20 “¹⁸Forasmuch 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; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...”

No event in the history of the world nor all eternity will ever come close to the death of Christ on the cross. It forever will be center stage of the praise of Heaven and the endless gratitude of those who, by the grace of God, reached Heaven's shores. All other omnipotent acts of God: the creation of the universe, Christ's resurrection, His second coming, the creation of the new heavens and earth, become meaningless if Christ did not suffer and die for sinners.

Christ dying for sinners is the very heart of gospel preaching and without it Christianity has no meaning.

The preaching and belief of Christ dying for sinners takes us before the presence of God into the Holy of Holies, the Mercy Seat sprinkled with blood where only the redeemed are allowed.

In His death Christ supremely revealed the holiness and righteousness of God and the love of God which sent His Son into the world to die for the ungodly.

Redemption is deliverance through the payment of a price. No other truth in all the Scriptures proves God's love for us more than this. “It is your freedom, with love.”

It is the cross where by the grace of God, He provided freely for those who would believe redemption, propitiation and reconciliation.

When we take a close look at these amazing things that God on His own did for unworthy sinners that would cost God everything in His Son, we will see His infinite wisdom in making the impossible possible. We will see that the love and grace of God to

reach out to man where there was nothing in man to love. God is love and in man's godless condition, lost and away from God, God, in His own love, loved us and in His own will chose to save us. The impossibility of man being saved and to be brought into a relationship with God would be of such wisdom, that if man could think of such a plan he wouldn't, and if he would, he couldn't.

Only a wonderful and loving, patient and merciful God would do what He has done in sending His own Son into the world for a bunch like us to save us at the cost of His Son.

These sermons on redemption, propitiation and reconciliation are meant to be taught to show the full extent of God's grace toward us. We will be forever changed in our attitude toward God and learn to love Him.

Salvation in Christ's suffering for us at the cross required three acts of God that go together. They are redemption, propitiation and reconciliation.

By His death Christ redeemed us and paid the price with His precious blood. This payment propitiated which means satisfied the justice of God and saved us from His wrath. This freed the love of God to act in grace toward the ungodly in reconciling the sinner to Himself.

God chose to want to have a relationship with fallen man, but for this to be possible man would have to be made right with God on His same level. This would cost God everything.

I. Redemption would be the price God would have to pay to deliver His people from the slavery of sin and its ultimate end, death.

Again, redemption is deliverance of slaves to sin in the love of God through the payment of a price: the blood of Christ, to give us our freedom. "Your freedom, with love."

The idea of redemption and its gift to man is awesomely wonderful. We are in slavery to Satan's power and his vicious cruelty to take us to our ruin and death. Sin has a hold on our minds; our nature is twisted, and we know that it is going to destroy us but we keep thinking we'll be O.K. We are imprisoned in our own minds and insane passions with "those demons in our heads" hacking us to pieces. We desperately want to be free and

yet our cravings and twisted desires (lusts) drive us to be satisfied with more. We can never get enough. We can "get no satisfaction".

Sin is to come up short of God's standards; it is to trespass His moral Law and step over the line into the enemy's prison. The vice of iniquity is a twisted mind which is bent against God and a mental insanity that is killing us. We know it but we can't do anything about it. Sin drives us to guilt, frustration, despair and an awareness of being separated from God with no hope of Heaven. It leaves us in misery with no real peace of mind.

The children of Israel were down in Egypt in slavery to Pharaoh and his taskmasters. They were beating the people of God, whipping them and driving them to serve Pharaoh's purposes, to build his pyramids. They were groaning and crying out for their freedom which was impossible for them on their own to find. God heard their cries, saw their severe sufferings and hardships and in His grace stepped in to make them His own possession. He would give them deliverance from evil and their freedom to serve Him for their good and His glory.

Exodus 1,2,12

God, in His love and grace and in His mercy chose to make them His own precious possession. We see this in the Passover Lamb (Christ) offered to a Holy God, the ransom price to buy them out from their sin and its consequences, the wrath of God. He gave them their freedom in love.

Pharaoh is a portrait of Satan; slavery is a trap in the walls of our minds to do evil; its consequences are a hideous hell, and the taskmasters are demonic powers that are the demons in our head. If it were not for the grace of God we would die in our sin and forever be in a real hell with the devil and his angels.

God loves us and is merciful and in His infinite grace chooses to have a relationship with His chosen people. The Heavenly Father, in His own love for us, sent His only Begotten Son into the world to rescue unworthy and godless sinners. It will cost God everything: His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a grisly cross to ransom us from the power of evil and death.

John 3:16,17; Romans 5:6-9 "For when we were with strength..."

I Peter 1:18-20 ¹⁸Forasmuch as ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (our empty and meaningless lives) received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But

with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: ²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Isaiah 52:3 “You sold yourselves for nothing (into emptiness) and ye shall be redeemed without money.”

Isaiah 53:5

This is redemption and God’s wonderful gift to those who will receive it in humility. It is a sovereign act of God in that man can’t get out of the prison of his own twisted mind unless God steps in and opens the prison doors.

God, the Father, sent His own Son, Who has the keys over hell and death through the cross and His resurrection. Jesus died to conquer death to pay for the penalty of our sin. He crushed the head of Satan and freed His people from that old serpent, the Devil. Satan is a defeated foe. (Colossians 1:13,14; I John 4:4; Revelation 12:9,10)

Because of this there is coming a greater exodus out of death unto eternal life. Acts 2:20; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 5:9,10

Redemption required God to pay for man’s infinite sin debt against a Holy God by an infinite price of the blood of Christ to spend an infinite eternity with God. This is why the subject of redemption in the Bible is not boring or unpractical. The answer to all of man’s problems is not self-help solutions or feel-good sermons but theological remedies from the hand of a great, loving, gracious God. “He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” II Peter 3:9

“Your freedom, with love.”

The word redemption comes from several words in the Bible that explain its meaning clearly.

1. AGORAZO: this word comes from the root word, agora which means, “market place” and therefore stands for, “to buy or to purchase”.

Six times in the N.T., believers are said to be redeemed or bought by the death of Christ at the purchase price of His shed blood.

I Corinthians 6:19,20 “¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”.

The Lord, through the offering up of His son at the cross, in His great grace bought us out of our sin and our slavery to it to be His servants. “We are not our own.”

God gave us our freedom and deliverance through believing on the Gospel of Christ for the purpose of serving Him. We are no longer to be servants of the devil and abusing our bodies that are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Our morals are to be radically changed by the power of God in our love for Him.

Jesus said, “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised...” Luke 4:18,19

When genuine believers hear the Gospel their minds and hearts are touched with repentance in the love of God. They are empowered by the Holy Spirit in deliverance from Satan’s vices. There is no sin that is so great that the power of the Holy Spirit is not infinitely greater. This is why Paul said, “I beseech you by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1

We were saved to serve. Freedom is not to do what we want but to do as we ought. It is in everything to glorify God.

“Your freedom, with love.”

When Hosea the prophet bought his wife back from the slave market after she had run away and become a prostitute, it was in the love of his heart. This is God’s love for us.

Hosea 1:2 “Hosea the prophet was told by the Lord, “Go take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.”

This prophet and his love for his unfaithful wife was to be a sign to Israel of God’s undying love for His people.

³ “So he went and took Gomer” to be his wife.

What did she do?

⁵ “She said, I will go after my lovers that give me my bread.”

She did this for money.

3:1 “Then said the Lord unto me, go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend (Hosea loved his wife in spite of what she had done to him), yet an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel, who took other gods, and love flagons of wine. ² So I bought her (redeemed her and gave her her freedom in love) to me for fifteen pieces of silver (a great price)’”

Gomer was being sold in the marketplace on the slave block with no possibility of freedom on her own.

This is where we were in our sin. God, in His love, bought us and delivered us from slavery; slaves to sin.

“Your freedom, with love.”

2. EXAGORAZO: it means to buy back. In Galatians 3:10, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us, for it is written cursed is every one who hangs on a tree”. It is a quote from Deuteronomy 27:26, that everyone who does not perfectly keep the Law is under a curse. Obviously we all have failed.

This is why Christ died for us. Christ took the curse for us at the cross and bought us back to Himself saving us out from under the curse.

God judged Christ in bearing the penalty of breaking the Law in our place.

Christ has given us our freedom from being under the Law and has placed us under grace.

The Law could only convict of sin and condemn us. By the grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, grace empowers us in the Holy Spirit to live for Christ!

“Your freedom, with love.”

3. PERIPOIEO: means to buy from off the market as a precious possession to God.

Acts 20:28 "...feed the church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood". We are precious to God in Christ.

"Your freedom, with love."

4. APOLUTROSIS (LUTROO): deliverance / set free – released – pardoned – dismissed – sent away.

Romans 3:24 "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

It is to pay a ransom price for the freedom of a slave in difficulty. It is deliverance through the payment of a price.

Luke 13:11-13 ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. ¹² And when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed (apolutrosis/released) from thine infirmity ¹³ and He laid His hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."

The religious leaders condemned Jesus for healing on the Sabbath day. Jesus answered, ¹⁶ "... ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed (set free from her misery/apolutrosis)...?"

In redemption God sent Jesus into the world to overcome Satan's hold on us; to free us from misery that Satan binds people to. A lot of us struggle with wrong thought patterns that were in our minds before we were saved. It was Satan's plan to hack us to pieces and bind us from any peace and productiveness. They lead to depression and anxiety. Through the years in God's redemption we need to slowly find our freedom in Christ from this bondage and to renew our minds through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

There is coming a finale in our apolutrosis (our redemption out of pain and difficulty). It is the second coming of Christ.

Jesus said “and when these things begin to come to pass then look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh”.

This is the coming exodus, our deliverance out of this godless place into Heaven with Christ.

These bodies of disease and death will be left behind in the final act of God’s deliverance of His people. When the groaning of these bodies and our long awaited expectations are fulfilled, “the redemption of our bodies” (Romans 8:23), we will be given new bodies, perfect bodies in Christ.

Philippians 3:20,21 “For our life is in Heaven: from where we also look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ²¹ who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.”

Revelation 21 “There shall be no more death, no more sorrow, no more suffering, no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

“Say so long to this world and say, Hello Heaven, here I come in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen! Amen!”

This is your redemption!

“Your freedom, with love.”

Redemption is every reason why we can be eternally grateful to God. He ransomed us out of the slave market of sin where our life had been ruined by our own evil. Misery and death is all that we knew. It was a totally impossible chance that we would ever find a release from the prison of sin. God in His love for the guilty sinner acted in grace, had mercy on our ruined lives and paid the ransom price (His blood) to set us free. We are His purchased, priceless, precious possession.

As His own, we have been saved to serve Him gladly.

Romans_12:1 “¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”