**1 Peter: The Glories of our Redemption, Pt 2**

*1 Peter 1:18-21*

**Context**

**1 Peter 1:18-21**—*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.*

By the lovingkindness of the Lord, He affords the sinner redemption through His precious blood.

Redemption is a term that describes one of the essential features of salvation. It speaks of the cost associated with the buying back. It is significant to note not only what payment is required but the One who is requiring such a payment.

This passage provides a good understanding of biblical redemption.

**A Biblical Understanding of Redemption**

1. **He saved us: from our futile way of life**

**1 Peter 1:18b***—….from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers*

1. Our former unregenerate condition
   1. Bondage to sin
   2. Alienated from God
   3. Object of God’s wrath

**Ephesians 2:1-3***—And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,****2****in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.****3****Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

* 1. *Former lusts* (epithumiais)—desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust[[1]](#footnote-2)

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

**1 Peter 4:2-3***—…so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.****3****For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.*

* 1. Ignorant in their understanding

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

* 1. Without God giving them understanding, they have no capacity to understand
  2. They are darkened in their understanding

**Ephesians 4:18-19**—*being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;****19****and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

* 1. Under judgment: God brought judgment on the earth for the wickedness of man

1. *Futile in their way of life*
   1. *Futile*—vain; empty; (literally) profitless[[2]](#footnote-3); useless, of no purpose
   2. Every unregenerate person is living a futile life
   3. Regardless of how much “good” they may do on the earth, their lives are futile

**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?*

* 1. Their way of thinking is completely corrupt (broken operating system)

1. *Inherited from your forefathers*
   1. Our sin nature is inherited from Adam
   2. The apostate Jewish faith (esp. demonstrated by the Jewish leaders) advocated a strong tradition through generations
2. Which only helps us understand the extraordinary need of the human condition and the glorious work of our Savior

**Titus 3:3-7**—*For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.****4****But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,****5****He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,****6****whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,****7****so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our souls are restless until they find their rest in Thee. *– Augustine*

1. **He saved us: with precious blood**

**1 Peter 1:18a, 19**—…*knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold…****19****but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.*

1. The price to buy back a human soul is costly
   1. *Knowing*—this is a fundamental understanding that they would have been taught
   2. Redemption comes not with temporal things—perishable nor what we might consider “valuable”
      1. Silver or gold
      2. In the OT, God did require a ransom to be paid for the sin of number the people (not trusting in the Lord) for military purposes
      3. No amount of money could redeem a sinner from the bondage of sin
2. The only acceptable means of redemption is an eternal price
   1. *Precious blood*
   2. *A lamb unblemished and spotless*
      1. The OT sacrificial system again comes into view
      2. And ultimately, it was not an animal that could atone for sin
      3. Unblemished and spotless is absolutely true of Jesus

**Hebrews 4:15**—*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

**Hebrews 7:26**—*For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;*

* + 1. The imputed righteousness of Christ becomes ours when we by faith believe

**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.*

1. The blood of Christ speaks of His death and is the chief word used in the NT referring to the atonement. [[3]](#footnote-4)
2. **He saved us: God raised Christ from the dead**

**1 Peter 1:20a,21a***—…..****20****For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times…****21****…who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory….*

1. *Foreknown—“*he having been foreknown”[[4]](#footnote-5) to know beforehand[[5]](#footnote-6)
   1. God had planned to send His Son as the incarnate Redeemer b*efore the foundation of the world*
   2. This determination was not reactionary; it was not an alternative plan after things unfolded in history
   3. Jesus has always been the Chosen One sent to save sinners

**Acts 2:23**—*this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*

**2 Timothy 1:9***—who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity*

**Revelation 13:8***—All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.*

**Luke 23*:35****—And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.”*

“For God, Christ was ‘the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world’ (**Rev 13:8**). Brenz writes thus: ‘the eye of God sees history in an entirely different way from the eye of flesh. God’s eye sees everything in an instant. If in the eyes of God, Christ had not already existed as the One incarnate, dead, and glorified in the time of Adam and of Abraham, the patriarchs could never have obtained forgiveness of sins and justification.’ Besser’s statement is still better: he says that Christ’s sacrifice was seen by God as eternally present. ‘Before the foundation of the world’ is an apostolic phrase, it=before time existed, thus in eternity, timelessly, God foreknew. But all such references to eternity, as well as all connection between time and eternity, are beyond human comprehension.”[[6]](#footnote-7)

1. *He has appeared—*to render apparent; to make actual and visible, realized
   1. Describes the uniqueness of His incarnation
   2. The eternal Son of God became human at a point in time

**Galatians 4:4-5**—*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,****5****so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

**Philippians 2:6-8**—*who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,****7****but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.****8****Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

1. *appeared in these last times—the period of time from Jesus’ birth and His Second Coming*

**2 Timothy 3:1***—But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.*

**Hebrews 1:2***—God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,****2****in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.*

**James 5:3***—Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!*

**2 Peter 3:3***—Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts*

**1 John 2:18***—Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.*

* 1. *Times (Chronos)*—a space in time or internal[[7]](#footnote-8)
  2. The last days would include our current state as well
  3. God had determined a point in time in which the Redeemer would come
  4. He likewise has determined a point in time where He will make all things new

**Revelation 21:5**—*And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He \*said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”*

1. *God raised Him from the dead* 
   1. *Undeniable evidence that God validated the work of His Son on behalf of sinners to redeem them*

**Acts 2:24***—But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*

**Acts 4:10***—let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.*

* 1. *Powerful evidence that was validated by those chosen to see it*

**Acts 10:40-41***—God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,****41****not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose 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*

1. *God gave Him glory*
   1. *Jesus’ ascension*

**Mark 16:19**—*So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.*

**Luke 24:50-51**—*And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.****51****While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.*

**Acts 1:9-11**—*And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.****10****And as they were gazing intently into [*[*h*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=act%201&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26934h)*]the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.****11****They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into [*[*i*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=act%201&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26935i)*]the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”*

* 1. Jesus returned to the glory He had with the Father before His humiliation and condescension

**1 Peter 3:22***—who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.*

**John 17:4-5***—I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.****5****Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

*(Cf.* ***Luke 24:26; Eph 1:20-21****)*

* 1. His work of redemption is the theme of heaven and the basis for His superiority

**Hebrews 2:9***— But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.*

**Philippians 2:9-11***—For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,****10****so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,****11****and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

1. **He saved us: for the sake of you**

**1 Peter 1:20b,21b***—…for the sake of you…****21****…so that your faith and hope are in God.*

1. *For your sake*—meaning all the redeemed
   1. Jesus dies on behalf of the redeemed

**1 Peter 2:24**—*And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*

**1 Peter 3:18**—*For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;*

**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.*

* 1. He is the only through Him

**Acts 3:16**—*And on the basis of faith in His name, it is [*[*g*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=act%203&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-27013g)*]the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.*

**1 Timothy 2:5**—*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

**John 14:6**—*Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

* 1. One cannot believe in God apart from Christ

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**—*and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,****8****dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.****9****These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*

1. Your Faith—salvation is appropriated through faith
   1. There must be faith/belief

**Mark 1:14-15**—*Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,****15****and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

**John 6:29**—Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

**Romans 3:28**—*For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.*

* + 1. Saving faith *in* the One, true, living God

**Hebrews 11:6**—*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

* + 1. Saving Faith *through* Jesus Christ

**John 6:40**—*For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.*

* 1. Redemption through Him produces believers in God[[8]](#footnote-9)

1. The blessing of redemption

***21****…so that your faith and hope are in God.*

* 1. *Faith*—belief in God enables us to trust God for His sufficient grace in the midst of difficulties

**5:7**—*casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

**Psalm 5:11***—But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.*

**Proverbs 29:25***—The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.*

* 1. *Hope*—future grace yet to be revealed

**Psalm 146:5**—*How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, Whose hope is in the Lord his God*

**Romans 5:2**—*through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

***Galatians 5*:5**—*For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.*

**Conclusion**

The believers of Asia Minor could rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus had come, and that He had already paid the penalty for all sin. Surely we, too, can trust in the God who is carrying out His eternal plan for our good, and who has proven His love by the gift of His   
Son.[[9]](#footnote-10)

**Psalm 49:15**—*But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for He will receive me.*

**Homework:** Memorize **1 Peter 1:1-21**

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

* Richard W. De Haan, *Good News for Bad Times, 1 Peter.*
* R.C.H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude*
* John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter*

# John MacArthur, The Wonder of Our Redemption, Part 3, October 30, 1988, 1 Peter 1:19-21 [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

* Jerome H Smith*, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge*
* [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)
* Strong’s Concordance

1. Strong’s G1939 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strong’s G3152 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. MacArthur Commentary, 80. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. MacArthur, 82. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Strong’s G1097 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Lenski, 67. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Strong’s G5550 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. MacArthur, 84. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. De Haan, 38. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)