

The Blood of Jesus Christ

Sunday, January 3rd, 1988

I Peter 1:18-23

“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; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

We are turning to our message for today to the Book of 1 Peter. This is a very familiar passage of Scripture, in the 18th and 19th verses. There are also two or three other verses that I want to look at in this message.

Why don't you get your Bible, if it is convenient, and follow along. I am going to read these verses and then deal with a few phrases in each one of the four or five verses.

Beginning with verses 18 and 19, I know that you are quite familiar with this. I know you have heard this verse many times, I'm sure.

It says in 1 Peter 1:18, *“For as much as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but you were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

We'll stop right there for just a moment. I'm speaking on the subject: “REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST or THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.”

What was the first thing that you saw in these verses? Well, it is the opening statement; Peter said, *“For as much as you know.”* This is not speculation. What I am preaching today is not speculation, and it is not theory, it is the truth that we know.

It sounds like Job of old, when he says; *“I know that my Redeemer liveth. Though worms destroy this body, this flesh, yet I'm going to see the Lord”*; He is going to stand on this earth, I know that.

Like Paul, when he said in 2 Timothy 1:12, *“I know whom I believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed to Him against that day.”* He said, *“I know...I know whom.”*

John, in the Book of 1 John, and this is a phrase that he uses so frequently (*“We know”*), he says *“We know that we have passed from death unto life.”*

Paul wrote this, *“We know that all things work together for good to them who love God who are the called according to His purpose.”*

So, what Peter’s writing here in 1 Peter 1:18 and 19 is, it’s not speculation; it is not theory; it is fact. This is something that I know, and I know that this is the truth of God.

Like John said, *“This is the record”*; this is it; don’t go any further; right here is where it is found.

What does he know? He says, *“For as much as we know that we are not redeemed with silver and gold from our vain conversation.”* Let’s look and see what we are redeemed from first, and then we will look at how we are redeemed. Let’s see what we are redeemed from.

When he says, *“Your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers,”* he is talking about this ritualistic religion. He’s talking about all the religious form, ceremony, and legalism in which these Jews were involved and wrapped up in.

He’s also talking about all of the sacrifices that meant nothing, the holy days, the Sabbath days and the feast days that meant nothing to them; things that had become a stumbling block. They had been redeemed. These people to whom Peter is writing, had been redeemed out of a refuge of lies and out of false religion; they had been redeemed from that.

Not only had they been redeemed from that, but it was a two-fold redemption. God redeems us from sin and God redeems us from religion.

God redeems us from sin, which we are born. *“They call His name Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.”*

We are redeemed from religious bondage. Hold on to your seat a minute! People don’t get religion; they are born with religion. Everybody is religious, did you know that? Go around the world and everywhere you go, people are religious.

They have some kind of god, some kind of religion and some kind of spirit world. That's right! You can go to the most heathen place, into the jungles of the deepest, darkest continent and you will find they are worshipping something. They have religion.

Now, everybody has religion. Religion is natural to natural men. Religion is naturally sin. Religion is a part of his make up. Religion is born of his emotions and is born of fear. Religion is born of desire, born of expectation and is born of a lot of things. He has religion. People don't get religion; they have religion. They are born with religion.

People get to know Christ. They come to know salvation. They come to know the living God. So, when God redeemed us, Peter is saying to these people, the elect of God; *"You've been redeemed."*

You were redeemed from the curse of the law and the wrath of God, and from your sinful natures. You were redeemed from the penalty, practice, power and someday from the presence of sin. But, you thank God, that you have been redeemed from religion.

You have been redeemed from that duty and responsibility that you despised. You have been delivered from that bondage and slavery of religion.

You have been brought into the liberty and joy of salvation. You have been brought into the liberty of Christ. You have been brought to know God and to rejoice in Him. That is what you have been delivered and redeemed from.

Now, he says; *"We know."* This is not speculation or theory; we have been redeemed. We have been redeemed from sin, slavery, and religious bondage. *"We have not been redeemed with silver and gold."* We are not redeemed with works and the deeds of the law.

We are not redeemed by anything that we did. The price is higher than that! The price of redemption is too high for you to pay. The price of redemption demanded the silver of His sweat, and the gold of His blood. There is a lot of difference.

I heard about old Dr. A. J. Gordon who pastored up in Boston years and years ago. He was walking down the street one day and he met one of his little Sunday school boys. The little boy had a homemade cage. In that homemade cage he had two little field birds.

The preacher stopped the little boy and said, "Where did you get the birds?" He said, "Well, I trapped them." The preacher said, "What are you going to do with them?" He said that he was going to play with them, and then feed them to the cat.

Pastor Gordon said that he felt great compassion for those little birds because they looked so frightened while they were standing in that cage trembling. He knew they were missing the freedom of flying around.

He said, "I'll buy those birds from you son." He said, "No preacher; there is plenty out there; you can have as many as you want." The little boy didn't think that he needed the birds and told the preacher that he could get his own.

Pastor Gordon said, "No; I think I want those birds." The little boy gave in and sold them to him for two dollars. That was a lot of money back then. The preacher dug in his pocket, got the two dollars, and paid the little boy for the birds and the cage.

The boy went skipping down the street with his money. The preacher watched him go as he stood there holding the cage with the two frightened little birds inside.

Finally, when the little boy turned the corner, the preacher took the wire off of the door of the cage and opened it up. He held it up to the sky. He said, "All right little birds, I have redeemed you, I have bought you, I have set you free, fly out."

He said that he could almost hear them singing. Field birds don't sing, but he thought they could. They sailed into the sky, hollering, "Redeemed, redeemed."

This is the story that he told from that. He said, "One day the Law of God walking across heaven had me captive." I was not a captive of Satan; I was captive to the Law of God and the Justice of God. Satan didn't have me bound.

God's Law has us bound and God's Justice has us bound. Satan doesn't own a thing. He is bankrupt! He has been disenfranchised. He has been disowned and cast out. He's been dehorned and is nothing.

I will tell you this; the Law has a claim on us. The Justice of God has a claim on us. Our Lord met the Law of God and said, "I'll buy those birds." But the Law says, "It will cost you the silver of your sweat and the gold of your blood."

Our Lord paid it and He bought His people. He bought His sheep. He set them free and He redeemed them. That is the price!

You can't pay the price. We are not bought with the works of the Law, the deeds of the flesh such as silver and gold, legalism, morality, rules and regulations and doing good. We do good awhile and then do bad awhile.

God does not weigh your bad against your good to find out that you have been better than you were bad, and then takes you into heaven. We're redeemed! *"We know that we are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ."*

Now, that is how a man is redeemed. Did you know that? This is what this writer of the Holy Scripture knew. This is what that apostle of Jesus Christ knew. This is what Peter knew, who was crucified upside down for what he believed and taught. That is what he knew.

This is what this inspired writer of Holy Scripture knew; he said, *"We are not redeemed with silver and gold,"* the works of the flesh or the deeds of the Law. We are not redeemed with religion, baptism, decisions, professions, preaching, being deacons, or being Sunday school teachers.

We are not redeemed by being choir members or giving a little money to the church. *"We are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish or without spot."*

Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:7 *"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin."* Now; listen to me and write this down; one thing is clear, solemnly, obviously and clearly from the Word of God; when we read the Bible, there is in the Bible an unmistakable connection between God's mercy and shed blood." Did you know that? Have you ever noticed that?

There is one thing that is obvious and clear; there is one unmistakable connection between God's mercy and the shed blood, between forgiveness and the blood atonement. God said, *"It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul. I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your soul. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."* There is an unmistakable connection between the covering of sin and the blood sacrifice; it cannot be denied.

Read the Word of God. Start in Genesis. When Adam and Eve were there in the Garden naked and realized their shame and guilt, God covered their nakedness. How did He do it?

God didn't just take the wool from an animal, but He slew an animal and He clothed Adam and Eve with the skin. That is the first blood shed on the face of this earth. This is the first mention of blood being shed in the Bible.

God shed it to cover man's sin. That is when the trail of blood started. He goes all the way through the Bible, until you get to Calvary, and He stops. *"For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."* That's right!

You come on down to Abel. Have you ever watched these two brothers? These were not two little kids playing church. These were two full grown men who were family heads. If these boys had not been family heads, they would have been offering sacrifices and their daddy would have been offering the sacrifice.

Here are two grown men, family heads, who come before God with a sin offering. One of them, Cain, brought the fruits of the field. One of them, named Abel, brought the blood of the lamb.

The Scripture says, *"God had respect to Abel's offering and He rejected Cain's offering."* Why did He ever have respect for Abel's offering? The Bible says that it was a "blood sacrifice."

There cannot be any offering. There cannot be any sacrifice. There cannot be any sin offering. There cannot be any approach unto God without the shedding of blood. There must be the blood that typifies and pictures the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Lamb. Do you see that?

Here is the first time that a man's blood is shed on this earth. Are you with me? Cain rose up in anger and slew his brother. He slew him because he was angry with him. Abel brought the blood and came before the Lord by grace, by blood and by faith. God accepted him.

Cain tried to come to God by works, by the fruits of his own hands and the labors of his own hands. This was salvation by works, and God rejected it. He got angry with his brother who believed grace, and killed him.

The first time that any human blood was shed on this earth, was shed in a religious fight between works and grace, between works and free grace.

This blood was shed over man's efforts to save himself, and a man who believed that salvation is of the Lord through the blood of Christ. This was the first blood ever shed on this earth and it hasn't stopped being shed yet.

There are just two religions. Either salvation is of the Lord or salvation is of man. Salvation is either by the will of God, or salvation is by the will of man. Salvation is either by the grace of God, or salvation is by the works of man. Salvation is either by the blood of Christ, or salvation is by my religious duties. We've got two religions, Cain and Abel and they both represent those two religions.

Abraham and Isaac started up the mountain to worship God. Here is a lad that I know was a teenager, or somewhere around there. He knew this: that you can't worship God except through the blood. He knew that there must be a sacrifice. He knew that there must be a sin offering.

You might say, "Well, how do we worship God?" Christ is our Lamb, Christ is our sin offering, Christ is our High Priest, Christ is our sacrifice. The Lamb of God has been slain.

As Abraham and Isaac walked up that mountain, Isaac turned to his father and said, "*Father; where is the lamb? Here is the wood, here is the fire; where is the lamb? You can't go before God without blood.*" Did you hear that?

God won't receive us without a lamb. Abraham said, "*My son; God will provide Himself a lamb.*" I'm showing you this, which if you read the Bible at all, with any understanding, there is an unmistakable connection between forgiveness and the shedding of blood. There is a connection between the mercy of God and the atonement. There is a connection between the covering of sin and the blood sacrifice.

What about the tabernacle in the wilderness? There is the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. What about all the blood that was sacrificed on the altar and brought into the Holy Place and into the Holy of Holies as atonement and sin offering?

There is the Passover, where the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt. That was blood deliverance. God said, "*Take a lamb, a male lamb, (Christ), in the first year, in the prime of life without spot or blemish and without sin.*" Christ was without sin.

"This lamb cannot be diseased. Put it up for three or four days; observe it." Our Lord lived on the earth for 33 ½ years. "*He was tempted, tried in all points as we are, yet without sin.*"

“Kill it and take the blood and put it on the lintel and the doorpost. When I see the blood I will pass over you.”

Are you hearing me? God instituted the Passover Feast and every year the Jews slew a lamb, roasted it with fire; ate the body of the lamb and put the blood of a sacrifice on an altar.

When the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world, who is the Lamb of God, John the Baptist pointed Him out. He said, *“There is the Lamb of God.”*

Before our Lord went to the cross, He observed the Passover for the last time. Here is the end of the Passover. He observed the Passover with His disciples and He said, *“With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you.”*

Nevertheless, we are instituting the Lord’s Table. This is the end of the Passover. There will be no more Passover Feasts. There will be no more Passover lambs because God’s Lamb is being slain. He took bread, break it, blessed it, and said; *“This is My body which was broken for you. You eat this bread, which represents My body. Take this wine; it represents My blood which is shed for the remission of sin,”*

No need to slay anymore lambs. No need to eat anymore lambs, Christ blood has been shed for your sins in the New Covenant. Don’t put anymore blood on the altars. Don’t put any more blood on doors. Don’t kill anymore lambs. Don’t eat any more lamb’s bodies, and don’t shed any more blood. This is the blood and this is the body of our Lamb, our Lord, who died for our sins.

Paul passed that onto the church. He said, *“What I have received of the Lord; I delivered unto you how the Lord the same night in which He was betrayed took bread and blessed it and said; this is my body; this do in remembrance of me.”* He took wine and said, *“This is my blood; do this in remembrance of me.”*

That bread does not become the body of Christ anymore than that lamb in the Old Testament was the body of Christ. That wine does not become the blood of Christ anymore than that lamb in the Old Testament’s blood was the blood of Jesus Christ.

If that lamb’s body had been the body of Christ and that lamb’s blood and been the blood of Christ, there wouldn’t have needed to be but one sacrifice. It is representative. Even so, the wafer or the bread or whatever you use, is not the actual body of Christ. He said, *“This do in remembrance.”*

This is not a sacrament; this is not a saving ordinance; this is a Memorial Feast. The wine represents His blood. In Hebrews 9 it says, *“Christ being come a High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, neither by the blood of calves and goats, but by His own precious blood; He entered once into the Holy Place and obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

My friends, there is a trail of blood from Genesis 3 in the Garden of Eden from the time that God slew that animal and covered the nakedness of that man and woman, all the way to Calvary at the cross. That is where it stops.

Another thing that is quite clear to me from this Scripture is; *“We know that we are not redeemed with silver and gold from our vain conversation received by tradition from our fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ.”*

Here is something quite clear; the blood of Christ is precious and valuable. Do you know why it is precious? It is the blood of God, the blood of His only begotten Son. It is the blood of the second person of the Trinity. Paul said to the church elders; *“Feed the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”* Do you see what I am saying? *“He is precious!”* There has been nothing like it before or since.

I will tell you something else; it is human blood. Christ is the God-Man. It is human blood that is untainted by sin. There has never been anything like that on this earth before or since. I’m talking about human blood untainted by sin.

God’s blood and human blood is *“Without blemish or spot.”* It is unmarked and untainted. His blood is precious. There is nothing like it. *“We are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.”*

His blood is precious because it is sufficient to save. *“That blood is able to save to the uttermost, them that come to God by Him.”* Did you know that His blood is able to cleanse the greatest sin, the blackest sin, the deepest sin, and the oldest sin?

“All manner of sin and evil shall be forgiven.” That is what He said. *“The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* That is a powerful blood! That is why it is precious. His blood is effectual and His blood is sufficient. His blood is precious because it was offered once, just once. If there is just one of anything on this earth, it is precious, and it is just one.

There wasn't but one sacrifice. *"By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."* It is precious because it will be the theme of glory. Did you know that this blood would be the theme song in glory? *"Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood."*

I think that something else is obvious here and I want you to watch it. *"We are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without spot or blemish who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last days."*

Do you know what is quite obvious here? The blood and the death of Christ, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, was no afterthought of God. He came down here and died on purpose because God decreed and designed and determined before He ever made the world, before the foundation of the world that Christ should die for our sin.

Christ was ordained to be our Saviour before we were ever lost. Christ was ordained, *"Who was verily foreordained before the foundation of the world."* He was ordained of God to be our Savior before the world was ever created. He was ordained before God ever laid the foundation, before He ever made man and before man ever fell.

It says that three times in the Bible. In Revelation 13:8 it says; *"He was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world."* Acts 15:18 says, *"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning."* Hebrews 13 says, *"His blood is the blood of an everlasting Covenant."*

Look at our text again, *"You know you are not redeemed with corruptible things (by works, merit, silver, gold or gifts), but with the precious blood of Christ"*, who is a perfect Saviour without a blemish or spot.

He is an eternal Saviour from the foundation of the world, in the beginning and there are not accidents with God. There are no sudden decisions, no emergencies.

Look at this verse, *"For whom He died."* That tells us for whom Christ died. *"Who verily was foreordained from the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last days for you."* For whom was He manifest? *"For you, who by Him, do believe."* That is what it says!

"He was verily foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you, who by Him believe in God who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory." Yes, Christ was manifested, delivered, and died for those who believe.

I'm talking about those who believe God and those who believe that God raised Him from the dead. There are those who believe that God gave Him glory. They are the ones for whom He died.

He didn't die for people who don't believe Him. He didn't die for people who don't believe God, and who do not believe that He was raised from the dead. That would be blasphemy to even believe that the blood of Christ was wasted. *"He shall not fail."*

It did not stop there. It says that *"He was foreordained before the foundation of the world for you, who by Him do believe, and for you who have purified your souls in obeying the truth."* Look at verse 22. He died for people who obey the truth, who receive the truth, who love the truth and follow the truth. They walk in the truth, delight in the truth. The truth makes them free!

He continues on further to say He was delivered. *"He was ordained before the foundation of the world and was manifest in these last days for you who love one another with a pure heart fervently."* This is in verse 22 also.

He said, *"You believe in God; you believe God raised Him from the dead; you purified your soul and obeyed the truth and you love one another."* He says in verse 23, *"You who are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible seed by the Word of God who liveth and abideth forever."*

Read it! May God bless it to your heart.