

## Lesson # 2 - The Priorities Regarding the Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Introduction

- A. Priorities are simply those things to which we give major importance. They may refer to such things as possessions (money, property); relationships (friends, marriage); achievements (degrees, best-shot); positions (quarterback, president); pleasures (food, television); virtues (righteousness, love); etc.
- B. Our priorities inexorably stamp us with their character. We become like our priorities. They determine the kind of a person we will become and how we will live.
- C. In the previous lesson we considered the great truth that Jesus Christ was "precious" to God the Father. The Bible exhorts us to give Him the first place in our lives. When we do so, then all the other priorities may be evaluated on the basis of God's will. Through this we are assured of spiritual success.
- D. In the lesson before us we wish to ascertain the priorities that come to us through the work of the Lord Jesus.

### I. Orientation: I Peter 1:13-21.

- A. This passage contains four exhortations regarding the Christian life, Vs 13-15,22 and eight incentives which serve as reasons for living such a life, Vs 16-18,21-25.
- B. One of the main incentives is found in Vs 18-20. We are to live a committed, holy, life of love because of the nature of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. That work is "precious" to God the Father.
- C. The term "precious" means both valuable and honorable. The death of the Lord Jesus is valuable in regard to its effects and is honorable in that it is the death of the Son of God.
- D. The redeeming work of Jesus Christ is very high on the list of God's priorities and therefore it must be high on our list. We must seek to understand what it means to give the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ rightful place in our daily lives.

### II. Explanation.

- A. The redeeming work of Jesus Christ is one way whereby God has revealed Himself to us.

- 1. It is a demonstration of the love of God.

But God commendeth His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

2. It is a demonstration of the deity of Jesus Christ.

And declared to be the Son of God, with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the Resurrection from the dead. Romans 1:4

3. It is a demonstration of future judgment for the non-Christian.

Because He (God) hath appointed a day in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man Whom He hath ordained, whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead. Acts 17:31

Observation: This form of revelation underlines the importance of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- B. The redeeming work of Jesus Christ is presented in the Bible as a pattern for our daily lives.

1. Through His death and Resurrection we have been set free from sin and must choose to live that way.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk (live) in newness of life. Romans 6:3,4

2. Through His death and Resurrection we have been set free from the sinful world system and must choose to live such a separated life.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. Galatians 6:14

Observation: In that the believer is identified in the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ we immediately recognize that we must live in harmony with this work. To fail to do so would be to count His death and Resurrection as unimportant.

### III. Exposition: I Peter 1:18-21.

- A. The Nature of Christ's Redeeming Work - ". . . as of a Lamb . . . . "

1. The Lamb typified, Exodus 12:3.
2. The Lamb prophesied, Isaiah 53:6,7.
3. The Lamb provided, John 1:29.
4. The Lamb described, I Peter 1:18-21.

5. The Lamb slain, I Cor. 5:7,8.
6. The Lamb glorified, Revelation 5:4-14.
7. The Lamb reigning, Revelation 6:15-17; 22:1-5.

B. The Character of Christ's Redeeming Work - " . . . without blemish and without spot."

1. The Lord Jesus Christ was holy in His character.

Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity . . . . Hebrews 1:9

For such a High Priest became us, Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners . . . . Hebrews 7:26

2. The Lord Jesus Christ offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice to God.

For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath (Ps. 110:4), which was since the law, maketh the Son, Who is consecrated (perfected) for evermore. Hebrews 7:26

How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the Eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14

C. The Purpose of Christ's Redeeming Work.

1. Negatively: " . . . redeemed from . . . . " I Peter 1:18.

a. " . . . From your vain conversation (daily life) received by tradition from your fathers."

- 1) This refers to the patterns of sinfulness which characterize the human race.
- 2) When Jesus Christ died He broke the power of these sinful habits that try to enslave us. I Peter 2:11
- 3) We must honestly face the truth: the power of sinful anger, desires, our jealousy, pride, envy and selfishness has all been broken. We have been redeemed from all of this.

b. " . . . that He might deliver us from this present evil world . . . . " Galatians 1:4

- 1) This refers to the selfish way of life manifested in our culture.
- 2) We are called to live separated from the world. I John 2:15-17

c. " . . . redeem us from all iniquity . . . . " Titus 2:14.

- 1) The word "iniquity" is "lawlessness" i.e., living contrary to God's Word.
- 2) The thrust of this verse is that we have been redeemed from living with ourselves as our own authority.

2. Positively: ". . . that your faith and hope might be in God."  
I Peter 1:21
- a. ". . . faith and hope in God."
- 1) This relationship is one of the highest ever given to man.
  - 2) The virtues of faith and hope are among those described in the Bible as primary in value. I Cor. 13:13; I Thess. 1:3
  - 3) The redeeming work of Jesus Christ has made it possible for the believer to trust God!
- b. ". . . walk in newness of life . . . free from sin . . . the servants of righteousness." Romans 6:4,18
- 1) This freedom from sin and ability to live righteously is a direct result of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.
  - 2) Who can measure the value of such a life and its benefits? Consider what this could mean to the individual and those about him. We need only to contrast this with the terrible effects of sin in human lives to realize the value of such virtues.
- c. "He that spared not His own Son . . . freely give us all things."  
Romans 8:32
- 1) Here the terrible cost of redemption is contrasted with the gifts that are given through His work. We have been given all things - freely.
  - 2) The chapter continues by emphasizing the gift of justification, freedom from condemnation, Jesus Christ our Intercessor, and an inseparable relationship with the love of God.

#### IV. Application

- A. Do we recognize the value and importance of the death of Jesus Christ and through that the seriousness of sin? Do we allow sin to control us?
- B. Do we recognize the value and importance of the death of Jesus Christ and through that the necessity of the virtues of love, faith, hope and purity?
- C. Are we living as though the person of Jesus Christ and His death are unimportant?
- D. Summary: Meditate on Colossians 3:1-17. Note what we are to refuse and what we are to claim - because of the work of Jesus Christ.