

Studies in I Peter (19)

The Responsibility of Salvation

Introduction

- A. The Bible reminds us that God has made an adequate provision for the believer's daily life. We have been given all spiritual benefits, and the Holy Spirit Himself has come to be our Helper. Ephesians 1:3; John 14:16
- B. If we are to honor God in daily life we must understand the importance of obedience. Success in the Christian life, as in other realms, is not the result of "luck" but due to a knowledge of the truth, establishing correct priorities, and obeying the truth in faith and love.
- C. Our text affirms that we have been redeemed from our past life with all its desires, errors, and sinful patterns of expression. Note: In the King James Version the word "conversation" means "daily life."

I. The Grace of God in the Believer's salvation, I Peter 1:3-2:10.

- A. The description of salvation, Vs 3-5 (Lesson # 11)
- B. The joy of salvation, Vs 6-9 (Lesson # 12)
- C. The greatness of salvation, Vs 10-12 (Lesson # 13)
- D. The responsibility of salvation, Vs 1:12-2:3
 - 1. The responsibility of dedication, V 13 (Lesson # 14)
 - 2. The responsibility of holiness, Vs 14,15 (Lesson # 15)
 - 3. The Biblical reasons for obeying God, Vs 16-21
 - a. Because of divine revelation, V 16 (Lesson # 16)
 - b. Because of personal accountability, V 17 (Lesson # 17)
 - c. Because of redemption, Vs 18-20 (Lessons # 18,19)

Forasamuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (empty life) received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. Vs 18,19

1). The description of our past "empty life."

Wherein in time past ye walked (lived) according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. Among whom also we all had our conversation (daily life) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Ephesians 2:2,3

- a) We once lived according to the course "pattern" of the world.

Comment: By "world" the Bible means a sensual and self-centered way of living. We once lived only for ourselves. Our pleasures, goals, priorities, values and methods were all for personal gratification. The text speaks "lusts of the flesh and mind."

b) We once lived according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan).

Comment: The Greek word for "worketh" indicates motivation, guidance, and the supply of strength. The same word is used for God working in believers (Ephesians 1:11,20; 3:20; Philippians 2:13). We were once related to Satan in such a way that he "worked" in us.

c) We once lived in such a way that we were under God's judgment.

Comment: The reference to being "children of wrath" describes our attitudes and actions of our past life to be those God could only condemn. These three references indicate the hopelessness of our condition.

2) The truth of redemption from our past "empty life."

Redeemed ... from your vain conversation (daily life).

Comment: When Jesus Christ died on the cross He dealt with our sinful past -- in fact we died in and with Him (Rom. 6:6). He broke the power and patterns of sin and made it possible for us to live in freedom. We have been delivered (set free) from sin. This freedom, however, will never be a practical reality -- unless we practice our deliverance.

3) The exhortations regarding our past life.

a) We are to stop living according to the patterns of our past life.

That ye put off ... the former conversation (daily life) ... which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts Ephesians 4:22

Comment: To obey God means to refuse, cast off, repudiate, reject, stop living in the sins and attitudes of the non-Christian way of life. If we do not we will not know the power of redemption in our life even though we may be a believer.

The seriousness of this exhortation is underlined by the reminder that sin will always deceive us and corrupt us. Our wisdom is no match for sin -- it always deceives us. Our ability is no match for sin -- it always corrupts and enslaves us. This is why Augustine said that "sin was its own penalty."

b) We are to live our daily life according to the pattern of the gospel.

Only let your conversation (daily life) be as it becometh the gospel of Christ Philippians 1:27

Comment: The Gospel is the message of redemption and salvation. To live with the Gospel as the pattern for life would mean at least five things.

1. Live as one who has a living relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. Live as one who has been made a new creation in Christ.
3. Live as one who has been delivered from sin.
4. Live as one who has the ability to live a holy life.
5. Live as one who has the Bible as a pattern for life.

Conclusion: These passages bring our responsibility clearly before us. We must learn to obey God. Anything less will result in tragedy.

Victor M. Matthews