

Studies in I Peter (21)

The Responsibility of Salvation

Introduction

- A. Because we have been created in the image of God, and recreated according to that pattern in the new birth, we are basically spiritual people.
- B. Because of the kind of a person we are -- the highest value in our life is the spiritual. Nothing is more important. The greatest act that we can perform is to worship God. And the greatest benefit that we can bring to one another is also in the area of spirit.
- C. In our text we are reminded of the spiritual value and importance of the death of Jesus Christ -- the shedding of His blood. No greater act was ever performed -- and no act produced greater benefits.

I. The Blood of Jesus Christ is Precious because of Redemption.

Forasmuch as ye know that we were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . But with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. I Peter 1:18,19

Comment: The word "precious" was chosen by the Holy Spirit to describe the death and blood of the Lord Jesus. There were many reasons.

1. Peter's primary thought has to do with the honor and excellence of the Lord Jesus. His blood was "precious" because of Who He was and is -- the eternal Son of God, sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things -- and yet our Redeemer. Acts 20:28
2. The blood of the Lord Jesus was precious as compared to the way people and things were redeemed with the common coinage of that day -- "silver and gold." The redemption Peter is speaking of has to do with our relationship with God -- a spiritual ransom and deliverance. Only the blood of Christ could atone for us.
3. The word "precious" is also used to emphasize the value of the benefits that are included in our redemption. The work the Lord Jesus performed for us could not be done by any other.

II. The Blood of the Lord Jesus is Precious Because of the Covenant.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take eat, this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is my blood of the new testament (covenant), which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:26-28

Comment: The blood of the Lord Jesus is precious (valuable) because in His death He performed a spiritual transaction that validated the new covenant. While God has always had a covenant relationship with His people -- there had to be a time when the redemptive aspect of that covenant was ratified. This came to pass when the Lord Jesus shed His blood. His death is a promise that all the benefits of the new covenant belongs to every believer.

III. The Blood of Jesus Christ is Precious Because of its Cleansing Power.

. . . *Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.* Revelation 1:5

Comment: In this passage the term "washed" has the significance of "spiritual cleansing." The emphasis is twofold:

1. The removal from us of the moral and spiritual defilement that is a characteristic of every non-Christian (Isaiah 64:6).
2. The breaking of the bondage and enslavement that sin once had upon us. Even though one may be saved as a child -- the "empty life" (patterns of sin) received from the ancestral line are broken. The believer has been given a spiritual "washing."

IV. The Blood of Jesus Christ is Precious Because of Forgiveness.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Ephesians 1:7

Comment: While the basic characteristic of sinfulness is self-centeredness, the definition or nature of sin is "transgression." This is why John states that sin is "lawlessness" i.e. it is an attitude or act that violates, profanes, and desecrates the will and character of God. The seriousness of such an act is beyond human comprehension and can only be measured by the infinite greatness and holiness of God.

Everyone is guilty of this greatest of all crimes (Romans 3:23). For the one who has repented and confessed such sin and believed in the Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior -- there is forgiveness. Again the depth and extent of such mercy is beyond us. The text states it is "according to the riches of his grace."

V. The Blood of Jesus Christ is Precious Because of Justification.

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. Romans 5:9

Comment: The word "justified" means "to declare righteous." As every person is a transgressor of God's law and character -- so every one of us has failed to obey the law of God -- and we are therefore unrighteous (Romans 3:10). The obedience of Jesus Christ as our Representative culminated in His death (Philippians 2:8). All the value of His obedience was imputed to us in the new birth. We are now fully righteous in Him.

VI. The Blood of Jesus Christ is Precious Because of Invitation.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. Hebrews 10:19,20

Comment: In the tabernacle and later the temple a very thick curtain separated the priests from the inner court of God's presence. At the moment the Lord Jesus died -- that veil was torn apart (Matthew 27:50,51) to signify that every believer has the honor and privilege of audience with God.