

Spiritual Growth Through Understanding Obedience (2)

I Peter 1:18-20

Introduction

- A. In times of serious crisis every believer has a tendency to act out of harmony with his Christian commitment. This happens even though salvation is the very foundation of our life.
- B. Peter, in writing this Epistle, reminds its readers how necessary it is to understand salvation, and to practice it each day. Such a life will bring protection, peace, wisdom, and ability.

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

- A. The description of salvation, Vs 3-5.
- B. The joy of salvation, Vs 6-9.
- C. The greatness of salvation, Vs 10-12.
- D. The responsibility of salvation, Vs 13-2:3.
 - 1. The responsibility of dedication, V13.
 - 2. The responsibility of holiness, Vs 14,15.
 - 3. The Biblical reasons for obeying God, Vs 16-21.
 - a. Because of divine revelation, V16A.
 - b. Because of the teaching of revelation, V16B.
 - c. Because of personal accountability, V17.
 - d. Because of redemption, Vs 18-20.

Forasmuch 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, who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you.

- 1. The fact of redemption, "redeemed."

The meaning of redemption revolves around the theme of paying a price to obtain a possession. In Peter's day the word was often used to describe the act of paying for a slave. In the Bible the word indicates how Jesus Christ gave Himself as our ransom, on the cross, to provide a redemption (freedom from sin) for all who will believe upon Him. The Christian must look upon himself as redeemed -- because he does not belong to himself.

It was important for Peter's readers to learn this great truth. Each of us must understand the lessons involved in redemption and live accordingly.

2. The reminder regarding redemption. *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . .*

to need man is to be do with silver and gold. The Apostle here reminds us that the redemption we is of a spiritual nature and can be provided only by a spiritual ransom. If redeemed four demands would have to be met.

- a. A divine-human must give perfect obedience and sacrifice.
 - b. The sacrifice would have to be of infinite worth.
 - c. The sacrifice would have to be done by a human representative.
 - d. The sacrifice would have to be made as a priestly offering.
3. The need of redemption. . . . From your vain conversation (empty life) received by tradition from your fathers.

The "empty life" to which Peter refers has to do with the non-Christian. Such a person, as a sinner, is under spiritual condemnation, he is enslaved to sin and Satan, he has no ability to fulfill the reason for his existence, and unless he turns to God in repentance and faith, will suffer eternally in hell. No unbeliever understands his true spiritual state, apart from the Bible, because blindness is a part of his condition.

4. The explanation of redemption.

Redeemed . . . 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.

- a. The Redeemer named: "Christ."

The title refers to the One prophesied throughout the Old Testament as "The Anointed One." He is the Lord Jesus Christ. God Himself came to be our Redeemer.

- b. The Redeemer described:

- (1). His holy character: "a lamb without blemish . . . spot."
- (2). His valuable death: "precious blood."
- (3). His eternal appointment: "foreordained . . . world."
- (4). His revelation in time: "manifest in these last times."
- (5). His goal indicated: "for you."

Conclusion: Two questions must now be asked. Are we redeemed? If so, then the question is: Are we living consistently with it?

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