

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Wonder of Our Redemption

1 Peter 1:18-21

Part Two

Let us read **1 Peter 1:18-21** “**Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) But with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (20) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you (21) who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.**”

The key word in this passage is “redemption.” It means to “buy back.” This particular passage and the verses that immediately surround it offers to us a great opportunity to study this grand theme of redemption. In the pursuit of this purpose we will attempt to answer four different questions. Last week we began to answer the first of those questions.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN REDEEMED FROM? WHAT WE HAVE DISCOVERED IS THE FACT THAT ISRAEL’S DELIVERANCE FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT THROUGH THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF PASSOVER LAMBS IS AN O.T. FIGURE OR PICTURE OF THE CHURCH’S DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

This morning we will examining further what in fact we are delivered from when we are delivered from the bondage of sin. The passage before us allows to expand our minds and to understand more completely the WONDER OF OUR REDEMPTION.

The first thing that we see that we have been delivered from when we are set free from the bondage to sin is “LUST.”

DELIVERANCE FROM “FORMER LUSTS” (V. 14)

Let us read **V. 14** “**As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.**” When we come to Christ and are redeemed by the blood of the lamb we are delivered from our “former lusts.” Those former “lusts” do not any longer have to control us. Can they control us? Yes! But the point that we need to understand in light of our redemption, in light of our deliverance from sin is the fact that they do not any longer have to control us.

What is “lust?” Lust is wanting something so badly that it supercedes our desire to be pleasing the Lord. Lust is desiring something so much that it overrides our desires to be pleasing to the Lord.
What would be some examples of this?

1) Let us consider the Garden of Eden for a moment. You will remember that the Lord had commanded Adam that he was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in **Gen. 2:17**. It was clear to Adam what would be pleasing to the Lord and that was that he would not eat of the tree. And it is clear later in **Gen. 3** that he passed this knowledge to **Eve**.

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2) Would they have been guilty of lust if Adam and Eve found themselves repeatedly and consistently thinking about the tree? And the answer would be , NO! Thinking about and lusting after are two different things. Why would I say this? Because the tree according to **Gen. 3:3** was in the middle of the garden. Certainly being in the middle of the garden would force them to have to think about the tree often. Simply being exposed to the possibility of disobedience through our circumstances has nothing to do with lust.

3) Would Adam and Even have been guilty of lust if they had found that the tree was attractive and pleasant to look upon? Of course not! It is not as if all of garden of Eden was beautiful and in the middle of this paradise was this ugly and undesirable tree. Certainly the tree was beautiful. And had fruit which appeared attractive to eat. If this were not so then the commandment would not have had to be made in the first place. When Adam and Even walked by the tree they may have very well said something like this, “Wow, what a gorgeous tree, and look at the beautiful fruit.” These thoughts would not have been lust. But someone may say, “But if they had began to salivate, what if they had actually found their mouths watering as they passed the tree.” I still don’t believe that this is what the Bible calls “lust.” Again, what did I say that lust is, “Lust is wanting something so badly that it supercedes our desire to be pleasing to the Lord.”

4) When did their thought's ,positive impressions, or possibly even their desires of the tree turn to lust? Or more accurately when did Eve’s thoughts and desires about the tree turn to lust? When did her desire for the fruit supercede her desire to be pleasing to the Lord?

5) Some would say that she actually began to lust after the fruit on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the midst of her conversation with Satan recorded for us in **Gen. 3:1-6** let us read, **“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘ You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?” (2) and the woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; (3) “But from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, “you shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die (4) and the serpent said to the woman, “You surely shall not die! (5) For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (6) When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate, and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”** Well, what do you think? Was this the point in time when Eve lusted after the fruit which God had forbidden her to eat? Certainly it could have been, but I actually think that it could have occurred earlier. Again look at what Eve said in response to Satan's question **“or touch it.”** Had the Lord ever said this? And the answer is , No! Somehow the Lord’s command had been twisted in the mind of Eve. Eve even before this encounter may have already found her desire for the fruit greater than her desire to be pleasing to the Lord and had begun to take steps in her mind to open the door for her transgression corrupting the words that God had spoken.

Let us for a moment consider another example from Scripture that might help us.

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Hopefully all of you are familiar with Christ's struggle in the garden of Gethsemane. You will remember that three times Jesus asked His Father that the cup of the cross would pass from Him. Would it be fair to say that Christ did not at this particular time in his life want to go to the Cross? And the answer was of course not!

We would be hard pressed to say anything other than what I just said. In fact his desire not to go to the cross was extremely great, when he initially came into the garden we are told that he was grieved in His spirit even to the point of death in **Matt. 26:37-38**. We are told that even while he was praying to the father that the cup of his crucifixion pass from him in **Luke 22:40-46** that he was in agony and his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. These requests were not done casually but passionately. Jesus did not want to go to the cross!! Even though this was clearly the Father's will. Why would this strong desire not do something which was clearly the will of His Father not be considered lust? Why couldn't we have rebuked Christ for this behavior as he had rebuked Peter for trying to keep him from going to the cross?

In the midst of Christ's struggle, in the midst of every petition that the cup of the cross would pass from him what do we find? We find Christ saying "**Not my will but Thine be done.**" Never did Christ's desire to avoid the cross supercede Christ's desire to be pleasing to His Father. We should not think of lust as a desire for something that is displeasing to the Lord, or even a strong desire to do something displeasing to the Lord, but rather lust has taken hold of us when our desire for something displeasing actually supercedes our desire to be pleasing to the Lord and we begin to systematically begin to take steps in our minds toward the transgression.

Once we cross over in our mind into the arena of lust we will begin to move toward disobedience. It may be ever so slowly, but we will inevitably be drawn in disobedience. This is clear from **James 1:15** which says, "**When lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin.**"

It is a horrible thing for us to fall into the clutches of lust. For those who truly want to live a righteous and holy life it will be a bone crushing experience as his power within us drags us kicking and screaming ultimately into acts of disobedience. **HOWEVER BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S REDEEMING WORK WE NO LONGER HAS TO SUCCOMB TO THE LUST OF OUR FLESH ANY LONGER. THROUGH CHRIST'S REDEEMING WORK WE CAN BE SET FREE. WHAT ELSE HAVE WE BEEN DELIVERED FROM?**

DELIVERANCE FROM "IGNORANCE"

Look at **V. 14** "**As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.**" Before we were redeemed by Christ we were in bondage to ignorance. Look at **John 17:25** "**O righteous Father, although the world has not known Thee, yet I have known Thee; and These have known that Thou didst send Me.**" Before we were redeemed by Christ we and the rest of the world were ignorant of God. This is expanded on in **John 8:19** where He said while addressing certain religious Jews "**You know neither Me, nor My Father, if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.**" Later on in the same chapter Jesus addressing the same Jews said in **John 8:47** "**He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.**"

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Before we are born again and are redeemed from our ignorance we lived in spiritual darkness unable to discern spiritual truth. A man once said that, “That is nothing so frightful as ignorance in action.” Why is it so frightful it is because it will ultimately result in their spiritual destruction. The Bible tells us that **“There is a way that seems right unto man but the end thereof is death.”** The vast majority of our community, nation and world are in bondage to spiritual ignorance they think everything is Okay but the truth is that they are blind and judgment is quickly approaching.

My daughter Kristin has grown up in the church and most of her friendships and the people she had been around were Christians. People who had been delivered from their ignorance through the redeeming work of Christ. However as she became involved in sports in high school and now in college she has been surrounded by unbelievers. And what has impressed her is their spiritual blindness or ignorance. Truths which she assumed people could see are totally foreign to those she has spent much of her last two years with and it has been surprising to her.

They are ignorant of God, and ignorant of his truths rather than resting in the Scriptures they are resting in their own understanding..... When we are redeemed from the bondage of sin we are delivered from “lust” and we are delivered from “ignorance.” But we are also delivered from “futility.”

DELIVERANCE FROM “FUTILITY”

Let us now look at **V. 18 “knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from our futile way of life**” Futile means pointless or useless. Does this mean that our lives were useless until we were redeemed and set free from the bondage of sin and the answer to that question is clearly, Yes!!!

Jesus in **John 15:1-5** makes this very clear, **“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. (3) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you (4) Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (5) I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; and apart from Me you can do nothing.”** Or in other words we could understand him to say apart from me you will live pointless and useless lives. Oh, it is certainly possible for people apart from a personal relationship with Christ to live an enjoyable life but it is impossible for them for the Lord’s perspective for them to live a meaningful life.

Someone at this point may say well wouldn’t our lives be purposeful apart from a personal faith in Christ if we invested our lives in good works. Again listen to the words of Christ once again in **Mark 8:36 “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? What good is it that we would do these things for people and ultimately be eternally damned, or for us to do good and for those who we have attempted to serve to be eternally damned.**

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If our lives will ever have meaning now we must make our lives count in light of eternity. And the only way we can make our lives count in light of eternity to be redeemed by Jesus Christ set free from the bondage of sin.

Not only when we are redeemed from the bondage of sin are delivered from “lust,” “ignorance,” and “futility,” but we are also delivered from “tradition.”

DELIVERANCE FROM “TRADITION ”

People do not come to their beliefs and practices usually by themselves but rather through their families. God has chosen to place certain children into certain homes. For children to be placed in the homes of families who have a personal relationship with God with Jesus Christ those children are blessed because they have a Godly tradition. But this is not true for the vast number of people in the world.

Let us look at **V. 18** once again, “**knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold from your futile way of life inherited from your fathers.**” For each of you who will have a Japanese Student in your home these next four weeks you will personally experience an individual who is in bondage to a tradition. Much of what they believe and what they choose to do with their lives is the result of what they have been taught. If they choose to embrace Christ and follow Him they will not only be turning their back on what they have believed and trusted in, but on everything their mothers and fathers and their ancestors believed and trusted in. This was a problem in Christ’s day with the pharisaical Judaism and it continues to this day with Godless nations and peoples.

CONCLUSION

When the Japanese come into your homes this week know that they are the captives of sin. They are in bondage to lust , they are in bondage to ignorance, they are in bondage to futility, and they are in bondage to tradition. But hopefully through your expressions of love in the name of Christ and the truth which they will hear God will begin the process of leading them to Jesus. And perhaps there even may be a few of them during the course of this tour who would place their faith and trust in Christ and be set free. SET FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND DELIVERED FROM LUST, IGNORANCE, FUTILITY AND TRADITION.