

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Wonder of Our Redemption

1 Peter 1:18-21

Part Four

What is life? What does it really mean to live? The answer to that question depends on whether we are talking about physical life or spiritual life. To be physically alive means simply that our brain and heart are still functioning. Everyone, I presume, that is here this morning is physically alive. But even though this is true, it may not be true that everyone here this morning is spiritually alive. And I propose to you that until we come alive spiritually we truly do not know what it means to live.

Hopefully after we finish our study this morning of **1 Peter 1:18-21** we will better understand what it means to truly live.

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 you faith and hope are in God.**”

The key word in this passage is “redemption.” It means to “buy back.” In order to help us better understand this particular biblical theme we have begun to ask for different questions.

The first question that we asked was what are we redeemed from? The answer to that question is we were delivered from sin. And we discovered four different expressions of that deliverance referred to in **VV. 13-18**. When we were delivered from sin we were delivered from LUST. When we were delivered from sin we were delivered from IGNORANCE. When we were delivered from sin we were delivered from FUTILITY. When we were delivered from sin we were delivered from TRADITION.

The second question that we asked was what are we redeemed with? The answer to that question is we were not redeemed with silver and gold but rather with precious blood.

The third question that we asked was who were we redeemed by? the answer to that question is we were redeemed by Christ.

WHO HAVE WE BEEN REDEEMED BY?

We have been redeemed from sin, with precious blood. We have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. Look at **V. 19** “**but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**”

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Passover lambs of the Old Testament were precious because they were unblemished and spotless. They were the choicest of all the animals available. When the Jewish people offered up these very special animals and shed their precious blood it was costly to them.

Jesus also as God's sacrificial lamb was also unblemished in spotless. Not speaking of his physical characteristics but rather of his person. Jesus was perfect in holiness without sin set apart in a special way to manifest for us the path of obedience. HOW DO WE SEE THE SPECIALNESS OF GOD'S UNBLEMISHED AND SPOTLESS LAMB CONFIRMED IN THE PASSAGE BEFORE US THIS MORNING?

1) JESUS WAS FOREKNOWN - Let us look at **V. 20** **“For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world.”**

The Jews were not unfamiliar with the thought of their Messiah having been chosen before the foundation of the world. The prophet Isaiah speaking of the Messiah in **Is. 42:1** written 700 years before Jesus was even born said, **“Behold, my Servant, whom I uphold; MY CHOSEN ONE in whom My soul delights.”** Though it was known that the Messiah was chosen, it is equally clear that the vast majority of the Jewish people failed to understand what Jesus had been chosen to do. They rightfully believed that Jesus had been chosen to be the king of the Jews but they failed to understand his greater work of redemption that had to be accomplished first. We see this clearly in **Luke 23:35**. In this passage we get a glimpse of what the Jewish people were thinking when they beheld Jesus on the cross **“And the people stood by looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, HIS CHOSEN ONE.”** Jesus, the chosen one of God, was not chosen simply to be a king but He also was chosen to be the Redeemer and His path to the throne was through the cross.

Before the foundation of the world or in other words before time, in the sphere of eternity past, God the Father knew God the Son in a certain way. How did God the Father know God the Son? Before the earth, before Adam and Eve before the fall of man, Jesus was viewed by His father as a lamb waiting to be offered at an appointed time for our redemption. In every interaction between our Heavenly Father and our Redeemer in eternity past there was always a clear understanding of what God the Son was purposed to do. There was always a certain knowledge on the part of God the Father and God the Son that a significant change was going to take place in their relationship.

Jesus was special because He was foreknown before the foundation of the world. Christ is confirmed as special, as precious because He is God's eternal lamb. How else was Jesus special? **JESUS WAS ALSO CONFIRMED AS SPECIAL OR PRECIOUS TO GOD THROUGH HIS INCARNATION.**

2) JESUS' INCARNATION - Let us again look at **V. 20** **“For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last time for the sake of you.”**

Chosen in eternity past and revealed in time. There came a time when God's lamb had to leave the glory of heaven to take on human form. It is this event which seems to be referred to in **V. 20**.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

And it is this event which is described for us in **Phil. 2:5-8** “**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**”

In order for God the Son to become our substitute He had to become identified with us He did this by taking on a human form.

This same event is described for us in **John 1**. In **V. 1** it says, “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God**” and then it says in **V. 14** “**And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**” All this was done by Jesus it tells us “for our sake.”

There is a song entitled “And how can it be” and the words go like this, “And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior’s blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? He left His Father’s throne above, So free, so infinite His grace! Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam’s helpless race! Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me, Amazing love how can it be that Thou, my god, shouldst die for me!....”

Notice that He did this “in the last times.”..... Let us not fool ourselves into thinking that our time is unlimited. When Christ entered this world in human form and offered himself as a sacrifice for our sin it testified to the fact that the human race is closing in on the finish line. When their opportunities to make peace with God through the work of Christ will be past.

Jesus confirmed precious because He was foreknown, God’s eternal lamb. Jesus was confirmed precious because He was incarnated, God the Son willingly emptied himself of all but love so that He could die for us..... HE WAS ALSO CONFIRMED AS PRECIOUS BECAUSE HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

3) JESUS RESURRECTION - Look at **V. 21** “**who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead....**” The resurrection of Christ communicated very clearly the Father’s approval of the work of the son. In **Acts 2:22** it says, “**Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know- (23) This man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. (24) And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.” This was repeated in **Acts 2:32** “**This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses....**” Then in **Acts 3:15** “**But put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses....**” Then again in **4:10** “**Let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead- by this name this man stands here before you in good health.**”**

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Jesus perfect in holiness confirmed by FOREKNOWLEDGE, chosen as God's eternal lamb. Jesus perfect in holiness confirmed by INCARNATION, Jesus willingly emptied himself of all, but love in order to die for us. Jesus perfect in holiness confirmed by RESURRECTION, the Father himself raising Jesus from the dead bearing witness before the whole world of the sufficiency of Christ's blood to atone for the sins of the entire world..... He was also confirmed as precious through glorification.

4) GLORIFICATION - Look at **V. 21** “**and gave Him glory.**” Jesus has now come full circle. He was foreknown, incarnated, resurrected, and glorified. We see this spelled out in greater detail for us again in **Phil. 2:9-11** “**Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”

Jesus is the personification of holiness, that model of perfect obedience precious in God's sight confirmed through FOREKNOWLEDGE, INCARNATION, RESURRECTION, AND GLORIFICATION.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN REDEEMED FOR?

Look at **V. 21** “**..... so that your faith and hope may be in God.**” Before we were redeemed our faith and hope were in ourselves. Trusting in our own understanding in respect to the things of this life and resting in our own good works in respect to the things to come. But we have been redeemed from the bondage of sin with the precious blood of Christ so that our faith and hope may be in God.

We were separated from God and this relationship of faith and hope by sin, but when the sin problem is effectively addressed we are then set free to enjoy the Lord both now and forever. Walking in communion with Him and He with us. This reality is a treasure the world does not possess nor understand but when it is experienced everything in this life makes sense. Everything in our lives comes together. We will for the very first time really begin to understand what living really is.

CONCLUSION

We really begin to live when we come to know God in a personal way. **John 17:3** “**And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.**”

If you have come into this room this morning physically alive but spiritually dead you don't have to remain that way. If you have come into this room this morning physically alive but without a personal relationship with God not trusting Him in the present or having your hope fixed on Him for the future you do not have to leave this room this way.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Christ has made it possible for you through His work on the cross to be set free from the bondage of sin. All you have to do is to approach Him as Lord, humbly recognizing your sinfulness and desire for deliverance. And approach Him as Savior gratefully acknowledging that His sacrifice was sufficient to make you forever acceptable to God.

If you will do this then you will begin to understand what it really means to live.