

1 Peter 1:18-21

In these verses Peter is giving us four compelling ways of viewing Jesus which will bring us to:

- A great sense of gratitude for His sacrifice
- Give us a greater sense of holy desire to love Him
- Walk with Him
- Thank Him for His costly gift

The first word in verse 18 the word, “*knowing*”, or it could be rendered, “*For you know.*”

“You know this already, but I want you to know it better, more deeply and more personally. Turn it over frequently in your mind, and study it and meditate on it more. It is . . . so deep that you will never fathom it; it is so useful that you will always benefit from it.” [Robert Leighton, a Puritan pastor]

1. Our Redeemer

The verb “*redeemed*” was used in Peter’s day for the ransoming of prisoners of war, or the price paid to free slaves. But Peter makes it clear that we were not redeemed with “*perishable things like silver or gold.*” Peter isn’t evaluating our redemption by whatever silver or gold brings based on market value. He’s evaluating our redemption in light of eternity.

Vs. 18 – The words “*aimless conduct or futile ways*” refers to worthless attitudes, commitments or goals. None of which will ever bring about redemption or forgiveness. Paul describes the unbeliever in **Romans 1:21** as, “*knowing about God but not giving Him glory or giving Him thanks, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*” Paul encouraged the believers living in Ephesus to “*... no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking*” (**Ephesians 4:17**).

Selah – Life matters on earth only when our eternal life is settled in Christ.

“Money is the universal passport for everywhere except heaven, and the universal provider for everything except happiness.” [London newspaper 1959]

2. Our Substitute

Why a blood atonement? From the very beginning, God recorded through Moses these words, “*The life of the creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life*” (**Leviticus 17:11**).

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (**John 1:29**). Jesus Christ is our perfect Substitute, dying in our place, paying the penalty of our crimes which we could never do because we are not unblemished, we are not spotless.

Vs. 20 & **Acts 2:23** – The death of Christ on the cross was according to the foreknowledge of God. This was always the plan of our triune God from eternity past. The crucifixion wasn’t an afterthought. There was no plan B, and it wasn’t a last minute fix to correct something that had been overlooked accidentally.

We often think of everything beginning with creation, but we think of God *first* as Creator, and then because of the fall of man, we think of Him *next* as Redeemer. Actually before the worlds (or anything) were ever created, Jesus Christ had already decided to die for you and me.

“Great was the work of creation, but greater the work of redemption; it cost more to redeem us than to [create] us; in the one [creation] there was but the speaking of a Word, in the other, the shedding of blood.” [Thomas Watson, a Puritan pastor]

3. Our Savior

Combining verses 20-21 in the Greek these verse could be rendered,²⁰ “*but [He] has appeared in these last times for the sake of you,*”²¹ *who, through Him are believers in God. He has appeared in these last times.*”

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The word “*manifested*” can be rendered “*to become visible.*” It indicates that moment in history when God the Son appeared on earth in the form of a baby. “*And he appeared in these last times*” is a reference to that period of time marked by His first coming and ending with His second coming.

We’re in the last times – the beginning of the last era in human history.

- Paul calls this period in human history “*the last days*” (**2 Timothy 3:1**)
- The writer to the Hebrews refers to it “*in these last days*” (**Hebrews 1:2**)
- John the Apostle calls it “*the last hour*” (**1 John 2:18**)

Vs. 20 – The personalization of the gospel of Christ was for our sake (*for you*)! **John 3:16**, “*For God so loved [put your name there] that He gave His only begotten Son, that if [your name] believes in [personally trusts] in Him, [your name] will not perish, but will have everlasting life.*”

This is the amazing, personal offer of the gospel to lost sinners, which must be personalized in the heart of faith toward the God of grace. Paul’s testimony – **Galatians 2:20** “*and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.*”

Belief in God (vs. 21) is not a mental acceptance of the fact of His existence, but a person’s heart faith in the God who saves sinners in answer to their faith in the resurrected Lord Jesus who died for them.

“*There are two kinds of people; those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, ‘All right, then, have it your way.’*” [C.S. Lewis]

4. Our Conqueror

Verse 21b, “*Who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*” Christ’s resurrection is the exclamation point of redemption. He has succeeded! He has won!

Paul writes that we in Christ are overwhelmingly conquerors- **Romans 8:37** “*we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us!*”

Vs. 21 – Peter writes that God gave Jesus Christ “*glory.*” Love is depicted as a gift “given” in the New Testament, “*didōmi*” (*gave*) is a common term, especially in John.

Selah – Jesus is what He is by God’s gift.

God gives Jesus:

- His works (**John 5:36**)
- His disciples (**John 6:37**)
- His name (**John 17:11**)
- All things (**John 3:35**)

Jesus himself gives:

- His life (**Mark. 10:45**)
- Himself (**Galatians. 1:4**)
- His body (**Luke. 22:19**)

As a result of Christ being victorious and the work of redemption being completed, (vs. 21) “*your faith and hope are in God.*”

Application:

We have a tendency to think of our redemption lightly when in fact it is of immeasurable value and worth. We must rearrange our thinking to give it this place of value. Confess your tendency to value earthly means and inheritance as more valuable than redemption in Christ. Ask for a passion and love for those truths pertaining to your redemption in Christ.