

# Our Salvation Is Incorruptible

I Peter 1:18-25

## I. **OUR REDEMPTION**- v. 18-19

### a. Defined

- i. Redemption means "to deliver or set free by paying a price."
- ii. V. 18- contrasts our salvation with our former lifestyle. We were redeemed, or purchased from that path of wickedness. We have been freed from the slave market of sin! Illustr- God had Hosea buy Gomer back from the slave market
- iii. The idea of redemption means there is a debt that we all owe!
- iv. We have sinned against a holy, eternal God, and there is a righteous and eternal punishment
- v. We have a sin debt, and all the silver and gold in the world could not take care of it!

### b. Jesus paid our sin debt!

- i. Paid in full!
- ii. The resurrection was God's receipt- v. 21

### c. The problem with the RCC doctrine of purgatory

- i. The Vatican II Council described purgatory as a place where the souls of the dead make expiation "in the next life through fire and torments or purifying punishments."
- ii. According to Vatican II, "in purgatory the souls of those 'who died in the charity of God and truly repentant, but who had not made satisfaction with adequate penance for their sins and omissions' are cleansed after death with punishments designed to purge away their debt."
- iii. We are soon coming upon the 500-year anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses which triggered the Protestant Reformation. Luther was infuriated by Johan Tetzel who was greedily selling indulgences. He famously claimed, "As soon as the gold in the casket rings; the rescued soul to heaven springs."

### d. V. 19- We are redeemed only through Christ's precious blood-

- i. God's emphasis on Christ's blood- 1 John 1:7- the only detergent good enough to cleanse our sin
- ii. There is an implication that it is completely illogical to turn from this costly, priceless redemption and go back into sin! We have been bought with a price!
- iii. Don't go back into the slave market!
- iv. Tell the world, tell the Devil- we are not for sale!

II. **OUR REDEEMER-** v. 19-21

- a. Christ alone! Not Mary, the Pope, Mohammed, or anyone else!
- b. V. 21- He is the revelation of God. In this chapter we see the Living Word and the Written Word!
- c. Christ called a spotless lamb without blemish. This reminds us of all the OT sacrifices which were a type in anticipation of Christ
  - i. See Hebrews 9:12-14, 25-10:4- His sacrifice was once, for all
  - ii. Note this does not need to be repeated! He does not need to be "re-offered."  
This is the problem with the RC tradition of the Mass
- d. Our salvation is final and complete- the forgiveness we need as Christians is not to change our position, but to change our fellowship!
- e. V. 20- Foreordained- another reminder that our salvation is not an afterthought- God has masterfully pre-designed the way of salvation because of His foreknowledge- v. 3
  - i. "Foreordained" (1:20) means planned before the creation of the world.
  - ii. This means before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, Christ had already been chosen as their Redeemer and ours.
  - iii. Again this teaching helps us understand that God is sovereign and has a plan
  - iv. God's plan does not negate our human will and responsibility (faith in v. 21)
  - v. It does not negate all the other commands in the Bible for evangelism!
  - vi. The scope of God's plan of salvation includes all men- Heb 2:9 teaches that Jesus tasted death for every man.

III. **OUR NEW LIFE-** v. 22-25

- a. The spiritual new birth
  - i. Physical life is brought about by a seed and is temporary in character. It must follow the physical laws of decay and death (entropy 2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics)

- ii. Being born again- spiritual life is different! II Cor. 5:17
  - iii. The seed of the new birth is incorruptible- God's word!
  - iv. One of the results of the new birth is love for the brethren- this is how the world will know that we are Christ's disciples- John 13:35
- b. We are all saved in some way- by the word of God which taught us the gospel!
- c. God's word abides forever, it is settled in heaven forever, and the life it produces is forever
- d. Peter here quoted from Isaiah 40:6-8. The word of the Lord certainly has endured. It has survived centuries of manual transcription, of persecution, of ever changing philosophies, of all kinds of critics, of neglect both in the pulpit and in the pew, of doubt and disbelief – and still, the word of the Lord endures forever!
- e. "A thousand times over, the death knell of the Bible has been sounded, the funeral procession formed, the inscription cut on the tombstone, and committal read. But somehow the corpse never stays put." (Bernard Ramm, Protestant Christian Evidences)
- f. God's word is not like physical nature or beauty because it is incorruptible
- g. Thus, the new life of a believer is incorruptible!
- h. 3 incorruptible things in this chapter
  - i. Incorruptible inheritance – v. 4
  - ii. Incorruptible redemption- v. 18-19
  - iii. Incorruptible word- v. 23-25

Conclusion:

- The high call for godly living makes sense in light of the price that was paid for our redemption. The precious blood of Jesus did not save us so that we could then live as if we were garbage.
- Our new life in Christ is forever and it is incorruptible. This is a freeing thought that God has provided and secured our salvation!
- Harry Ironside stated that salvation was like Noah inviting a pagan in his day to place his trust in God's Word and come in to the ark. Some view salvation like Noah offering to put a peg on the outside of the ark. "If you just hang on through the storm, you'll be saved." Salvation is not dependent on our holding on to God, but on our being securely held by and in Christ.