

People treat things according to what they believe their worth – Shows that define worth
Disposable cup is tossed aside without thought...priceless heirloom is handled with care
Value determines behavior | Peter = Salvation wasn't cheap | Purchased at infinite price
Therefore, Christian life is treating salvation as invaluable —careful, reverent, & purposeful
2 extremes: Living carelessly, forgetting Gods holiness | Living fearfully, forgetting Gods love

- a. 'Cheap Grace' - Accepting God's forgiveness without any desire for personal change
 - o **The Mindset:** "If I'm already forgiven, it doesn't matter what I do."
 - o **The Result:** A life that looks identical to someone without faith
- b. 'Costly Grace' - Forgiveness that compels a change in life
 - o **Cost God his Son:** It wasn't "free" to give; it was bought at a high price
 - o **Costs us our ego:** Requires the "death" of the old self to live a life dedicated to God
 - o **Costs us Obedience:** Summons to stand up for justice, even when it's dangerous

Peter argues that if we are Christians our lives should reflect the weight of price Jesus paid
Is your life reflecting the value of the sacrifice? Do you live like the saved?

Because we were bought w/ something infinitely valuable, we cannot afford live aimlessly

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the 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.

Big Idea - We belong to God because we were bought by Christ

We belong to God because Jesus paid the ultimate price to rescue us from sin & make us His own
Arizona Shopping – One I purchased my items why couldn't the store take them from me

- There was a time you were owned by darkness...have been purchased...can't take back
You belong to God because you were bought by Christ...three truths

1. God's justice requires our fear (17)

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,

We live in an age of "casual" everything—casual Fridays, casual conversations, AIRPLANE
Unfortunately, we have a casual approach to God – Mat. 11:19 (Friend) | Mk 14:26 (Abba)
Peter gives us a paradox to hold: God is both our intimate Father and our impartial Judge

- We love the idea of intimacy, comfort, provision, and protection...and we should
- But the God we call "Father" = One who evaluates every life with perfect justice

If you call on him as Father – Privileged Relationship - closeness, dependence, belonging
• Christians are not strangers to God — they are His children, but He judges His children
who judges impartially according to each one's deeds – Impartial Evaluation | God Judges:

Not biased – Superficial – Based on status – Fooled by appearances | Perfect & Fair
Believers are not judged for condemnation, but for evaluation and accountability

Bema Seat Judgment - Future event where believers will have their lives & works evaluated
God is a God of judgment and justice...this requires our fear...fear is reverence not terror

- ⇒ Terror is something you want to escape – Fight broke out at the mall w/kids...get out
- ⇒ Reverence is something you want to draw near to - Alistair Begg

Drawing near to God with reverence fills the heart with awe and humility

Drawing near to God with reverence inspires obedience and godly living

Takeaway: Live in reverence

- Remember the impartial judge – Visualize balanced scale | Friend and Father
 - Remember where you belong – Before the Father...not running scared from the Father
- 2. God's sacrifice revokes our futility (18-19)**
¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Peter uses some market economy language here to drive a point home
There is no other way to break bonds of the slavery to sin than the precious blood of Jesus
Greek verb 'Ransomed' had heavy historical context – Price paid to release a slave or POW
Gravity of this text – You and I were slaves...prisoners of war – And our captor was sin

- a. **Sin promises freedom but produces bondage** – Sin advertises freedom | Do what want
What starts as choice becomes a habit - Habit becomes dependency - Dependency becomes captivity
- Choose your sin: Lust – Lust begins as a choice...habit...dependent on it...in captivity
- b. **Sin Dulls Conscience and Perception** – Conscience cut knife – Sin drags across concrete
Hardens heart - Numbs moral sensitivity - Makes evil normal - Makes righteousness restrictive
What once shocked now feels ordinary – The Shining...hit with axe...shocked – desensitized

- c. **Sin Extracts Payment but Gives No Reward** – Sin demands payment nothing good
- Sin promises pleasure, relief, power, or identity — but delivers:
Shame – Emptiness – Fear of Exposure – Spiritual Death | Restaurant...clothes...punch
Have we identified that sin is a problem? Know that being a slave to sin is bad? Now what?
the futile ways inherited from your forefathers - empty, vain, powerless, or without lasting value

- Religious activity – Pagan or Jewish could not break the bondage of sin
 - o Pagans = Idol Worship | Superstitions | Rituals to false gods | Cultural Moral Patterns
 - o **Karma – Astrological Signs – Card Readings – Crystals – Being a 'good' person**
 - o Jewish = Festivals | Sacrifices | Adherence to the Law

A lot of people doing religious activities trying to earn Salvation – Baptism | Last Rites
not with perishable things such as silver or gold – Cannot buy salvation with perishable things
Old Testament Jews wealth was sign of divine favor...more had = more blessed | More gave
The way you utilize your wealth is a sign that you're saved...not a method by which you're saved
So to try and earn it through religious works is futile – to try and buy it is futile...what's left?
¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Precious blood of Jesus Christ is currency of Heaven – What gets traded for your ransom

- Peter draws from Passover. Lamb to be an acceptable sacrifice...scrutinized for defect
 - o **"Without blemish"**: Refers to internal purity—no hidden sickness
 - o **"Without spot"**: Refers to external purity—no outward marks
- "Lamb" - Peter is saying Jesus met the perfect standard of God's Law where we could not
Because He had no "spot" of sin of His own, He was qualified to take on ours
When Jesus died on the cross He ransomed you with His blood
You cannot earn it through religion – You cannot buy it with dollars – Believe in it by faith

Takeaway: Believe with purpose

- The Shift Identity to Activity – how valuable a price was laid on the altar of our salvation
Wake up every day saying 'Today...I'm going to believe in Jesus with purpose'
I'm gonna: Love – Reach – Teach – and Obey because I know what I cost

3. God's triumph redirects our faith (20-21)

²⁰He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹who 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.

History is full of events that changed the world – Penicillin alone isn't 100 years old

- 1926 = 50% of had cars | First home television 1929 | 1935 first commercial airplane
 - 1961 first space | 1971 first personal computer | First personal cell 1983 – First email
- None of these events were on accident and all of them planned, by God, long before arrival

• Same is true about coming of Christ **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world**
With all major world advancements and earth-shattering events...none compare to Christ
Jesus is the most humanity shaping person to ever step foot on the planet

- **The Redrawing of Time and Geography** – Gregorian Calendar | 2.4 Billion Followers
- **Foundations of Western Ethics and Law** – Moral architecture built on teachings Jesus
- **Impact on Education and Science** – Institutionalized Education understand Bible
- **Transformation of Social Care** – Hospitals grew out traditions Christian "duty of care"
- **Cultural and Artistic Dominance** – Art, Music, Literature driven by biblical concepts

a. **Christ Was Foreknown Before Creation**

- Before anything was made...before angels sang in heaven...Jesus was going to be Christ
 - This does not merely mean God knew about Christ
 - Christ was appointed, chosen, and set apart as the Redeemer before creation began.
- Redemption not Plan B - Cross not emergency measure – Love for sinners older universe

b. **Christ Was Revealed in History for Our Sake** - was made manifest in the last times for your sake

- Jesus did not come merely to teach, inspire, or reform society
- He came for you—for sinners who could not save themselves

He was born for you - He lived for you - He died for you - He rose for you

²¹who 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

- **Have you ever wondered what gives your faith its real foundation?**
 - Christian faith rooted in historical, living reality:
 - Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and glorified
- Peter reminds believers our faith is not blind optimism— grounded in the power of God

“So that your faith and hope are in God”

- Our trust and confidence are directed at God Himself, not just our circumstances
- Faith is not passive; it is active trust in God's character, promises, and power
 - Took my kids to the circus – Tightrope walker without a net...and he fell
 - This is the unbelieving world...when they fall...they fall hard...nothing to catch them
 - The resurrection is the safety net that catches you when you fall

Takeaway - Hold onto Hope

- **Live like God is present** - Cultivate a Constant Awareness
 - Practice frequent self-reminders: short prayers “Lord, I see You” or “You are with me”
- **Live like God is for you** – Cultivate a Constant Gratitude
 - Surrender worries to God knowing He bought you & is protecting you w/ resurrection
- **Live like God is victorious** – Cultivate a Constant Awe
 - Believing God is victorious empowers you to take action without fear of failure

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