

## 1 Peter 1:17-21

### Verse 17

*And if* - This is a first class conditional in the Greek and could be translated “since”.

*You address as Father* – Literally to “call on for help” or “to appeal to”. The idea is repeated prayer to God for provision in a Father – Child relationship.

*The One who impartially judges* – The word “*impartially*” is only used here in the NT. It means “without showing favoritism” or “without respect of persons”.

*According to each man’s work* – Our works will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

*During the time of your stay upon earth* – We never need to fear our eternal salvation (Romans 5:1). However our time on earth is seen as a “sojourn”. This word is used only here and in Acts 13:17. Our fear of God during our sojourn on earth has great value to our spiritual growth.

### Verse 18

*Knowing you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold* – Silver and gold are actually two of the most imperishable metals that this world knows. However they will one day perish (2 Peter 3:10).

*From your futile way of life* - Our condition without Christ is one of futility, emptiness, and worthlessness. There are no meaningful or lasting results for the life lived without Christ (Titus 2:13-14).

*Inherited from your forefathers* – Paul tells us that we inherit the sin nature from Adam (Romans 5:12). There is also a sense in which we inherit the results of the culture of a sinful lifestyle (Exodus 20:5-6).

### Verse 19

*As of a lamb unblemished and spotless* – This is probably a dual reference to the Passover lamb of Exodus 12:5 and also to the many OT sacrifices that call for a “*lamb without blemish*” (approximately 70 times. For example, Leviticus 1:3, Numbers 6:14, 28:3, 9, etc.). Jesus is the Lamb of God – John 1:31.

*But with precious blood...the blood of Christ* – The blood of Christ is precious in the sight of God and therefore far more valuable than any other thing. Note Romans 3:25, 5:9, Ephesians 1:7, Revelation 1:5, 5:9.

*The blood of Christ* –

- Removes our guilt before God, Rom 3:24-25
- Our consciences are cleaned, Heb. 9:14
- We gain bold access to God, Heb. 10:19
- We are progressively cleansed from sin, 1 John 1:7
- We are able to conquer the accuser of the brethren, Revelation 12:11
- We are rescued out of a sinful way of life, 1 Peter 1:19

*Redemption* – Three words.

*agorazo* – To purchase in the market. This word occurs 48 times in the NT. For example, 1 Cor. 6:20, 2 Peter 2:1.

*exagorazo* – To purchase out of the market. This word occurs 4 times in the NT. Note Galatians 3:13, 4:5.

*lutron* – To redeem, to liberate by payment of ransom. This word occurs 3 times in the NT. Matt. 20:28, Mark 10:45, 1 Tim. 2:6.

## **Verse 20**

*For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world* – God knew beforehand, because of His omniscience, that He would send His Son to die for the sin of the world. The “foundation of the world” refers to the creation of the earth.

*But has appeared in these last times for the sake of you* – *Last times* refers here to the age of redemption. Peter comforts them by reminding them that Christ came for their sake. John 3:16, “God so loved the world that He sent His only Son...”

## **Verse 21**

*Who through Him are believers in God* – Their identity as those who are redeemed. The emphasis is the One in whom we trust, or the object of our faith.

*Who raised Him from the dead* – Demonstrating God’s approval of His Son’s sacrifice.

*And gave Him glory* – The exaltation of Jesus to the right hand of the Father. This is an emphasis in Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:22-36).

*So that your faith and hope are in God* – Peter wraps up this section by reminding us that the resurrection of the dead is the foundation of our “living hope”. Notice how the doctrinal section of 1 Peter begins with resurrection hope (verse 3) and ends with resurrection hope and faith.

“There is no other solid basis for hope in hurtful times than the fact that Christ Himself took it all on Himself and rose victorious, ready to lead us, too, to victory.”<sup>1</sup> Chuck Swindoll

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<sup>1</sup> Swindoll, Charles R. *New Testament Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Zondervan, 2010, p. 159.