

Redeemed

1 Peter 1:13-25

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¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

v1 – What does it mean to be alert and fully sober?

Living the way God wants us to means that we must **gird up the loins** of our **mind** (NKJV). The idea in this phrase is to prepare for action, much like the phrase "rolling up your sleeves."

- We must also be ready to take a serious look at life.
- We must get rid of loose and sloppy thinking; to bring the rational and reflective powers of your mind under control.
- It means to control what you think about, those things you decide to set your mind upon.

Why is it important to be sober?

It denotes a condition free from every form of mental and spiritual loss of self-control; it is an attitude of self-discipline that avoids the extremes.

What is hope?

Most people understand hope as wishful thinking, as in "I hope something will happen." This is not what the Bible means by hope. The biblical definition of hope is "confident expectation."

- Hope is a firm assurance regarding things that are unclear and unknown (Rom 8:24-25; Heb 11:1, 7).

In what should we hope?

Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ: Peter has told us a lot about God's grace. He greeted us with grace (1 Peter 1:2).

- He told us of the grace that came to us in Jesus, predicted by the prophets of old (1 Peter 1:10). Now he goes further, writing of **the grace that is to be brought to you** when Jesus comes back.
- The only way we will be able to stand before Jesus on that day is because of the *unmerited favor* He gives and will give to us.
- **Grace** isn't just for the past, when we first gave our lives to Jesus. It isn't only for the present, where we live each moment standing in His grace (Romans 5:2). It is also for the future, when **grace** will be **brought to us**.
- God has only just *begun* to show us the riches of His grace.

What is grace?

Grace is the unmerited love of God, stooping to save and bless; the source of all those bright and holy gifts which come from his infinite heart.

v14 – What should God's obedient children do?

Fulfilling God's call to holiness requires that we, as **obedient children**, break off with the lifestyle of the world (which is characterized by **lusts** and **ignorance**).

v15-16 – What does it mean to be holy?

The main idea behind *holiness* is not moral purity but it is the idea of “*apartness*.” The idea is that God is *separate*, different from His creation, both in His essential nature and in the perfection of His attributes.

- But instead of building a wall around His apartness, God calls us to come to Him and share His apartness. He says to us, “**Be holy, for I am holy.**”

Why is it important to understand the holiness of God?

When we fail to see God’s apartness, we begin to believe that He is just a “super-man.” Then we don’t see that His love is a **holy** love, His justice is a **holy** justice, and so on with all of His attributes.

- Holiness is not so much something we possess as it is something that possesses us.

How is the holiness of God contrasted with pagan gods?

In this, the God of the Bible is radically different from the pagan gods commonly worshipped in New Testament times. “Heathenism scarcely produced a god whose example was not the most abominable; their greatest gods, especially, were paragons of impurity.

v17 – What is important to remember in our prayers?

If we as Christians **call on** a holy God (presumably for help), we must understand that we call on a God who shows no **partiality** — and will so judge our conduct. This makes a working, sober, holy walk all the more important.

v18 – What does it mean to be redeemed?

The word redeem means “to buy out.” The term was used specifically in reference to the purchase of a slave’s freedom.

- If we are “redeemed,” then our prior condition was one of slavery.
- God has purchased our freedom so we are no longer in bondage to sin or to the Old Testament law.

Who needs to be redeemed?

Everyone is in need of redemption. Our natural condition was characterized by guilt: “*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). Christ’s redemption has freed us from guilt, being “*justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*” (Romans 3:24).

What are the benefits of redemption?

Eternal life (Revelation 5:9-10), forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), righteousness (Romans 5:17), freedom from the law’s curse (Galatians 3:13), adoption into God’s family (Galatians 4:5), deliverance from sin’s bondage (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:14-18), peace with God (Colossians

1:18-20), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

- To be redeemed, then, is to be forgiven, holy, justified, free, adopted, and reconciled. See also Psalm 130:7-8; Luke 2:38; and Acts 20:28.

How is it we were not redeemed with *perishable* (*corruptible*, NKJV) things?

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.

From what were we redeemed?

From the empty way of life (NIV)

From your aimless conduct (NKJV)

Peter described the frame of mind which seeks to be justified by law as **aimless conduct**. It seems to have an *aim* — gaining merit before God by works — but it is in fact **aimless** because it cannot succeed.

v19 – How were we redeemed?

A lamb without blemish and without spot: Peter here spoke in reference to the completely sinless character of Jesus. If He were not **without blemish and without spot**, He would not have been qualified to be our Redeemer.

v20 – To what was Christ chosen before the creation of the world?

To be our Redeemer... The work of Jesus was not a plan developed late in the course of redemption. It was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, though it was made evident **in these last times**.

v21 – Who are the redeemed?

The entire plan of redemption is for those who **believe in God**, though even their belief is **through Him**. Those who **believe in God** are not disappointed because their faith and hope has been substantiated by Jesus’ resurrection **from the dead**.

What does it mean our faith and hope are in God?

We trust in God’s provision and His promises for eternal life.

v22 – Why do we love one another deeply?

Holy living is incomplete if it is not accompanied by **love**. To be a Christian means to have a **sincere love of the brethren**, but we are encouraged to exercise that love **fervently**.

v23 – What does it mean to be born again?

The phrase translated “*born again*” can also be translated as “*born from above*.” New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes (2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1–4, 18).

- John 1:12–13 indicates that being “born again” also carries the idea of becoming “children of God” through trust in the name of Jesus Christ.

Why does a person need to be born again?

Ephesians 2:1 – *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins*

All people are naturally spiritually “dead”; but when they believe in God’s provision through Jesus, they receive spiritual life through faith in Him. The Bible likens this to a rebirth.

- Only those who are born again have their sins forgiven and have a relationship with God.

How does the new birth come to be?

Ephesians 2:8–9 – *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

When one is saved, he has been born again, spiritually renewed, and is now a child of God by right of that new birth.

- Faith in Jesus Christ, the One who paid the penalty of sin when He died on the cross, is the means by which one is born again.

What does it mean to love deeply from the heart?

Such love is only possible (and only to be expected) of those who have been **born again** by the eternal word of God.

How do we demonstrate that we love one another?

We participate in regular fellowship... you will want to spend time with those you love.

What is the role of God’s Word in our being born again?

Not only do we recognize Jesus as our Savior, we recognize His Word as truly being from God.

- But being born again doesn’t only give us new life. It enables us to **love one another**.

v24-25 – How is it all people are like grass?

As mortals, we are all perishable and will only be “green and growing” for a season.

What is the good news in being reminded of our mortality?

The good news for believers is that God’s faithful love and promised salvation endure forever for those who revere Him and His Word. The Word of the Lord is powerful, consistent, and trustworthy.

Isaiah 55:10–11 – *As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it*

God keeps His promises and always accomplishes what He says He will do.

How is it the Word of the Lord endures forever?

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!*

- In AD 303 the Roman Emperor Diocletian demanded that every copy of the Scriptures in the Roman Empire be burned. He failed, and 25 years later the Roman Emperor Constantine commissioned a scholar named Eusebius to prepare 50 copies of the Bible at government expense.

What are the implications that God’s Word endures forever in today’s culture?

God’s Word does not need updating to be relevant in today’s culture. Those who claim it does are trying to justify their compromising with the world.

What applications come to mind from this passage?

- Christians are called to be holy; separate from the world.
- Jesus redeemed us from bondage to sin; live like it!
- Believers are born again, new creatures in Christ!
- God’s Word endures forever; we’ll be studying it in eternity!