

Slide 1

I've Been Redeemed

1 PETER 1:17-21

Introduction

1. Today is the first day of a new year, 2023.
2. It is my prayer that this year will hold much promise for each of you and that God may shower upon you blessings beyond number.
3. Many of you who have gathered here this morning to worship are among the redeemed of which Peter speaks about in our text.
4. One hundred and forty years ago this year, a woman by the name of Fanny J. Crosby, who at the time was 62 years old, and who had been blind almost since her birth, penned the words to a hymn which she titled, "**Redeemed.**"

Slide 2

5. Listen, for a moment, to the first stanza and chorus of this hymn:

**Redeemed how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child, and forever I am.**

**Chorus
Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am.**

6. To "redeem" means "to buy back" or "to free someone from captivity by payment of a ransom."
7. In our text this morning, Peter uses the fact that our redemption was made possible at great cost as motivation for living holy lives.

8. You may remember from our study last week what Peter said in the two verses leading up to our text this morning.
9. In 1 Peter 1:15-16, he wrote, “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”
10. Peter gave us two reasons for living holy lives as Christians:
 - a. God commands it: “be holy yourselves in all your behavior” (1 Peter 1:15, NASB95).
 - b. God is holy: “You shall be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:14–16, NASB95).
11. In our text today, Peter builds on this by telling us “conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth” (1 Peter 1:17b).
12. There are two questions I would like for us to consider this morning as we begin a new year:
 - a. What does it mean to conduct ourselves in fear?
 - b. What motivates us to do so?

Slide 3

I. Conduct Yourselves In Fear

“If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth”

(1 Peter 1:17, NASB95)

Slide 4

A. FEAR OF WHOM OR WHAT?

1. In Psalm 111:10, the psalmist wrote, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”
2. Solomon repeated these exact words in Proverbs 9:10, and earlier in Proverbs 1:7, he wrote, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”

3. Before sending His twelve disciples out on the “limited commission” to teach and preach in their cities, Jesus gave them some instructions.
4. Among those instructions were these words, “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28, NASB95).
5. Satan, and those influenced by him, are able to kill our body, but not our soul.
6. The only One able to “destroy both soul and body in hell” is God; He is the One we should fear.
7. In Hebrews 10:30, after telling us, “we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people,” the writer adds this note of caution, “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hand of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31).

Slide 5

[Knowing that we are to fear God,]

B. WHAT DOES SUCH CONDUCT LOOK LIKE?

1. The fear of the Lord is not an unhealthy thing — it is actually for our good.
2. In Proverbs 3:7, Solomon wrote “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”
3. Our fear of God results in right conduct.
4. In Leviticus 25:17, God spoke through Moses and said, “So you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 25:17, NASB95).
5. Not only does it result in right conduct, but in right treatment of our fellow man.
6. Shortly before his death, Moses asked the Israelites, “what does the Lord your God require of you?” (Deuteronomy 10:12a, NASB95).
7. He then answered with these words: “but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in

all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep His commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good” (Deuteronomy 10:12b-13, NASB95).

8. I think that pretty much sums it up — fearing God means following Him, loving Him, serving Him with all of our heart and soul, keeping His commandments.
9. Is it evident by your lifestyle, by the way you live your life, that you fear God?

Slide 6

II. What Should Motivate Us Toward Such Conduct?

A. THE FACT THAT GOD WILL JUDGE OUR WORKS WITHOUT PARTIALITY

“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”

(1 Peter 1:17, ESV)

1. Over the years, I dare say that all of us have seen news reports of those who committed crimes but were allowed to go unpunished because of who they were.
2. These individuals had no fear of justice because they knew they would be shown partiality.
3. When it comes to the God of heaven, there is no such partiality.
4. Though our membership in God’s family is a special privilege, we must never presume that we can disobey and God will allow that disobedience to go unnoticed.
5. He is our loving Father, but He is also our impartial judge.
6. In 1 Peter 4:5, Peter wrote that God “is ready to judge the living and the dead.”
7. In 1 Peter 4:17, he wrote that “it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God” — Who is that? Us.

Slide 7

8. In 2 Peter 3:7, he reminds us that “the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”
9. Nothing we do is hidden from God (cf. Hebrews 4:13).

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” (Hebrews 4:13, NASB95)
10. The knowledge that God will judge us in the last day, that His judgment will be impartial and that nothing is hidden from His sight should motivate us to “be holy” in all that we think, say and do.

Slide 8

B. THE TREMENDOUS PRICE PAID FOR OUR REDEMPTION (VV. 18-19)

“knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

(1 Peter 1:18–19, NASB95)

1. At the beginning of our lesson, I shared with you the definition of the word “redeem” — that it means “to buy back” or “to free someone from captivity by payment of a ransom.”
2. Prior to our new life in Christ, Peter says that you and I were captives to a “futile way of life.”
3. From God’s perspective, our way of life . . .
 - a. Had no real direction or purpose.
 - b. Led to no good result (cf. Ephesians 4:17).
 - c. Was a life of entrapment — we were trapped in a dead end lifestyle
4. In Colossians 1:13, the apostle Paul called it “the domain of darkness.”
5. In 2 Timothy 2:26, he called it “the snare of the devil,” and said that Satan held us captive there to do his will.

6. Paul told the believers in Ephesus that there was a time when they “walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2, NASB95).
7. This is a life out of which we cannot buy our way (i.e., “silver or gold”) — these things have no eternal value.
8. Our only means of escape is through “the precious blood of Christ” (v. 19).
9. He alone is God’s perfect sacrifice — “like that of a lamb without blemish or spot” (v. 19).

Slide 9

10. We must be fearful of not appreciating such a sacrifice (cf. Hebrews 10:26-29).

“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:26–29, NASB95)

Slide 10

C. THE KNOWLEDGE THAT OUR REDEMPTION WAS ALL GOD’S DOING (VV. 20-21)

“For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 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.” (1 Peter 1:20–21, NASB95)

1. God planned for our redemption before we ever sinned (v. 20a).

“He was foreknown before the foundation of the world” (1 Peter 1:20a,

NASB95).

2. He executed His plan at the proper time (v. 20b).

“He . . . has appeared in these last times” (1 Peter 1:20b, NASB95).

3. He did so for our sakes (vv. 20c-21a).

“for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God” (1 Peter 1:20c-21a).

4. He completed His plan through raising Christ from and giving Him glory (v. 21b)

“who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory” (1 Peter 1:21b, NASB95).

5. Because of all this, the precious faith which gives us victory over the world and the hope which keeps us focused on our eternal home are both in God.

Conclusion

1. As you begin a new year here today, I want to encourage each of you who are Christians to live holy lives which honor God.
2. God has loved you, He has desired to save you, and He has given the very best of heaven to make that possible.
3. We should all be afraid of any failure on our part to respond to His effort.
4. We should fear lest we fail to be holy, to be different, to live as those who are in a special relationship with God.
5. If you are not a Christian, please know that God’s gift of His Son to save you is the only way you will know a true life with eternal purpose and direction.

Slide 11

6. Any other life is ultimately meaningless — it is “dust in the wind”.