

Lesson 3
1 Peter 1: 13 - 21
Redeemed for Holiness

Memory verse: “But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do” (1 Peter 1:15 NIV)

There was a story about this little boy who made a boat. He got a fine piece of wood and some tools and he carved out a little boat. And then he carved out a little mast. And then he carved out a little beam and he made a little sail. And he took his little boat, the pride of his craftsmanship and he sailed it on a lake. A strong wind came and blew his little boat out of sight. It was so new the paint had hardly dried on it. He was sad that he had lost his little boat. But a number of days later he was walking through his little village and he stopped to look in a toy shop window and much to his surprise he saw in the window sitting on a pedestal his little boat. He rushed into the store to tell the man who owned the shop that that was his boat. The man didn't believe the little boy and said you're welcome to it, son, but you'll have to pay the full price. You'll have to pay the full price.

He argued again that it was his boat but the man was very demanding and unbending and so he said, "Sir, please don't sell it, I'll go home and I'll look to see if I have enough and I'll be back." And so the little boy went home and scraped together everything he could possibly find out of his bank and all of his pockets and the bottom of his drawers and he came back with exactly enough and he bought his own boat. And the end of the story says that's like God; He made us and He still has to purchase us.

The little boy said the boat is twice mine. I made it and I bought it. And that's Peter's message. We are redeemed by the one who made us. Therefore, at least for every time we say we've been saved we ought also to say we've been redeemed. For every time we call Jesus Saviour we ought also to call Him Redeemer. For every time we speak of salvation we ought also to speak of redemption, for the work of redemption is such a marvellous work.

Puritan writer, Thomas Watson wrote these words, "Great was the work of creation but greater the work of redemption. It cost more to redeem us than to make us. In the one there was but the speaking of the Word, in the other there was the shedding of blood. The creation was but the work of God's fingers, Psalm 8:3. Redemption is the work of His arm, Luke 1:51,"

In the first section of this chapter, Peter emphasized walking in hope, but now his emphasis is walking in holiness. The two go together, for “All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.” (1 John 3:3). The root meaning of the word translated “holy” is “different.” A holy person is not an odd person, but a different person. His life has a quality about it that is different. His present “lifestyle” is not only different from his past way of life, but it is different from the “lifestyles” of the unbelievers around him. A Christian's life of holiness appears strange to the lost (1 Peter 4:4), but it is not strange to other believers.

However, it is not easy to live in this world and maintain a holy walk. The anti-God atmosphere around us that the Bible calls “the world” is always pressing against us, trying to force us to conform. We are redeemed for holiness and called to maintain a different lifestyle, a holy walk in a polluted world. There is a responsibility for the redeemed.

To learn in this lesson: 1) Hope and Grace 2) The Basics of Redemption 3) Incentives for Holy Living

Discussion Questions:

1). Why did Peter exhort his readers to “fix your hope” on “the grace” in verse 13?

2). God's people are a redeemed people in verse 18. Why is redemption so important in the Christian faith and the gospel message?

3). Show how Peter in this paragraph (verses 13 to 21), presented to his readers spiritual incentives to encourage them (and us) to maintain a different lifestyle, a holy walk in a polluted world.