

Ransomed by the Blood

1 Peter 1.18-19

Series: Blood Wonder

January 3, 2021

The Village Church at Shell Point

I. Blood Wonder

A. Communion Series – Extraordinary Benefits of the blood of Christ

1. Began – exploring the red line which traces the whole history of the people of God
 - a. How blood sacrifice is traced through the entirety of scripture from beginning to end
 - b. How the OT sacrifices pointed to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
 - c. Rooted in the fact of human sin; that from the beginning human beings have rebelled against God
 - d. And the probationary conditions placed upon human beings by God at the very beginning of human history required death for transgression
 - e. Blood, representing life, then must be shed for transgression against a holy God
 - f. Ultimately only the blood of the sinless Son of God incarnate could atone for the sins of humanity
 - g. So we then began to unpack the astonishing work of the blood of Christ, the death of Christ, on behalf of all those who would ever believe in Him
2. **Purchased by the blood** – examined the extraordinary cost that Jesus paid to acquire a people of His own
3. **Wrath-removing blood** – saw how the blood of Christ removed the justly deserved wrath of God against all those who reject His right to reign and rule; how the blood propitiated that wrath for all those who trust in the death of Jesus
4. **Justified by the blood** – learned how the blood of Christ enabled God to declare all those who believe in Him “not guilty”; how the blood of Christ exonerates believers in the court of divine justice
5. **Brought near by the blood** – explored how the blood of Christ enables us to have a relationship with God Himself; how we are no longer separated from Him by our sin, but approach Him with confidence and intimacy
6. **Peace by the blood** – saw how we who were formerly enemies of God have seen that enmity dissolve by trusting in the death of Christ on our behalf; no longer enemies, we became friends by the blood of Christ
7. **Cleansed by the blood** – examined how the disturbing, corrupting stain of sin on our human condition has been cleansed by the blood of Christ
8. **Sanctified by the blood** – learned how the death of Christ on our behalf has sanctified us; how we are set apart by the blood of Christ, made holy by

His blood, and how we are able to grow in holiness through appropriating the benefits of His blood

9. **Loving election** – how God’s choice of us is only through the blood of Christ; that God’s election of us is a biblical doctrine, one that every believer should cherish, knowing that it is in Christ and through His blood that God’s choice is rendered effectual

B. This morning we continue the series

1. **Ransomed by the Blood**
 - a. To be ransomed is to be **set free** – a glorious thought indeed!
 - b. But how can the blood of Christ set us free?
 - c. And free for what? Free to do what?
2. These are the questions we will consider as we prepare our hearts to remember the death of Christ this morning

II. Illustration

A. Story told about Abraham Lincoln

1. Best I can discern – it is more the stuff of legend than an actual event
 - a. But it nevertheless illustrates some important spiritual truths
 - b. Anthony Carter recounts the story this way

B. Lincoln went down to a slave market

1. Saw a young African woman up for auction
2. He had compassion on her
 - a. He bid on the woman and won
3. He then told the young woman that she was free
4. She was stunned; disbelieving
 - a. She said, “What does that mean?”
5. He said, “That means you are free.”
6. She replied, “Does that mean I can say whatever I want to say?”
 - a. He said, “Yes, my dear, you can say whatever you want to say.”
7. “Does that mean I can be whatever I want to be?”
 - a. He replied, “Yes, you can be whatever you want to be.”
8. “Does that mean I can go wherever I want to go?”
 - a. “Yes, you can go wherever you want to go,” said Lincoln.
9. At which point, the young woman, with tears streaming down her face, said, “Then I will go with you.”

C. We too have been purchased out of slavery – ransomed, redeemed, set free

1. **1 Peter 1:18–19** (ESV) — 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.

III. **Freedom from slavery**

A. The blood of Christ can only be cherished by freed slaves

1. This meal will not have its intended meaning for you if you think that you never were a slave
 - a. One of the most offensive things Jesus ever said to the Jewish people was to accuse them of being slaves

- b. **John 8:31–32** (ESV) — 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
(1) Good news, right?
 - c. **John 8:33** (ESV) — 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”
 - d. They couldn’t believe that Jesus would say they were slaves!
 - e. The conversation deteriorates from there
 - f. And by the end of the chapter, they are picking up stones to kill Him!
 - g. Why? Because they refused to believe they were slaves who needed to be freed
- B. **1 Peter 1:18–19** (ESV) — 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers...
- 1. **Ransomed = lytroo (Gk)** – release from bondage through the payment of a ransom
 - 2. Bondage – whatever has us captivated and bound
 - 3. It doesn’t have to be some kind of physical incarceration or forced labor
 - 4. But the image is clear – we were not free!
 - a. We were in bondage
 - b. We were not morally neutral decision makers who, from time to time, decided to sin
 - c. No! We were sinners by nature
 - d. We had to sin!
 - 5. Anthony Carter: Before Christ we were sold into slavery to sin. Our hearts, our souls, and our bodies were captive to it. We had no choice but to sin, for we were “slaves of sin” (Romans 6.17). Yet unlike the slave girl, we loved our captivity and reveled in it. We lived happily in the foolishness of our minds and the bliss of our ignorance. We relished every foolish, ignorant moment. We loved the world and we hated God (Romans 8.7). We loved the passions of our flesh and deemed God unnecessary and His Word irrelevant for daring to challenge our lives. We were lovers of self rather than lovers of God. We were on the broad road to hell and happy to be there.
- C. The freedom that has been purchased is said to be “the futile ways inherited from your forefathers”
- 1. Those ways are the desires and inclinations of the flesh
 - a. Of our unredeemed human nature
 - 2. When we think of bondage we often think of addictions – like alcohol, drugs, or pornography
 - a. But just as likely would be selfishness – the desire to have our own way
 - b. Or greed – the thought that we must have more material resources to truly be happy

- c. Or control – the overriding impulse to need to be in charge or in control of our lives
 - d. Or pride – the thought that we actually possess some capacity or goodness or righteousness of our own
 - 3. The bondage is just as strong with those less tangible impulses than with any addiction we might face
- D. Just as the slave girl in our illustration wept in the face of her emancipator once freed
 - 1. Only when we admit our bondage, cast ourselves on the mercy of our emancipator, and find our freedom through the blood of Jesus
 - a. Can we finally sense the significance of this meal
 - 2. And who, when we finally realize we are freed slaves, would not weep with tears of joy when we eat and drink His body and blood?

IV. **The Inestimable Value of the Blood of Christ**

- A. And speaking of His body and blood, the blood of Christ is of inestimable value
 - 1. It must be in order to fulfill its intended purpose – the redemption of all the sins of all the sinners who ever lived and who ever will live, who believe in and trust in the saving work of Jesus on the cross
 - 2. Our sins have been abject attacks on the nature and character of the altogether holy God Almighty
 - a. In whom there is no shadow of turning
 - b. No spot or blemish
 - c. Who dwells in unapproachable light
 - d. Nothing but grace and compassion and kindness and righteousness and glory
 - e. And we have rebelled against this God, ignored this God, treated this God with dismissive profanity, rejected this God's authority, derided His mercy and compassion
 - 3. We are condemned in our slavery
 - a. Condemned by the only God who has the right to kill, not just the body but the soul for all eternity
 - 4. Nothing but the blood of Christ would be sufficient to atone for such sin
- B. **1 Peter 1:18–19** (ESV) — 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.
 - 1. No material treasures could atone for such sin or for such sinners
 - a. Even the most valuable of commodities like silver or gold will ultimately perish
 - 2. In order to atone for sins against the eternally existing, altogether lovely and righteous God
 - a. Who knows the end from the beginning,
 - b. Whose love is eternal,
 - c. Whose righteousness is everlasting,
 - d. Whose will prevails forever

3. Atonement for sin against a God like that cannot be bought with perishable treasures like money, silver or gold
 - a. Your tithe cannot purchase your redemption
 - b. Your monetary contributions cannot buy your freedom
- C. What can wash away my sins?
 1. Nothing but the blood of Jesus
 - a. The blood of Jesus is said to be precious
 2. Silver and gold may have worth and value in the eyes of the world
 - a. But the blood of Christ is of infinite worth
 - b. The blood of Jesus is of eternal value
- D. This meal – we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus
 1. It's just bread and the fruit of the vine
 - a. But it represents something far more significant
 2. It represents the precious blood of Jesus
 - a. The inestimable blood of Jesus
 - b. The priceless blood of Jesus
 - c. The infinitely valuable blood of Jesus
- E. Do you see in these elements the precious blood of Jesus?
 1. Do you see the eternal value of the blood of Jesus?
 2. Do you see the infinite worth of the blood of Jesus?
 - a. When you receive these elements?

V. **Freedom for Holiness**

- A. We've been freed from our sin
 1. Oh what a glorious, blissful thought!
 2. **My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought,**
 - a. **My sin, not in part, but the whole,**
 - b. **Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,**
 - c. **Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**
- B. But what have we been freed for
 1. Like the slave girl
 - a. "Does that mean I can say whatever I want?"
 - b. "Does that mean I can be whatever I want to be?"
 - c. "Does that mean I can go wherever I want to go?"
 2. "Yes, that what freedom means."
 - a. "Then I will go with you."
 3. In other words,
 - a. "I will say whatever You want me to say."
 - b. "I will be whatever You want me to be?"
 - c. "I will go wherever You want me to go?"
 - d. "I will go with You."
 4. "I will go with You, God."
 - a. "And I will find my every pleasure in You, my emancipator"
 - b. "I will find my very purpose in You, my Savior"
 - c. "I will discover my only hope in You, my new Master"

- C. **1 Peter 1:14–16** (ESV) — 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”
 - 1. We are ransomed, set free, for holiness
 - D. Peter is not saying that if we are holy, we will be set free
 - 1. No!
 - a. He is saying that we are to be holy because we have been set free
 - 2. **“You shall be holy, for I am holy... knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers... with the precious blood of Christ.”**
 - E. We are freed to be holy
- VI. Conclusion
- A. What do you see when you examine these elements?
 - 1. Do you see the precious blood of Jesus?
 - 2. Do you see the inestimable worth of the death of Jesus for you?
 - 3. Do you weep over the freedom purchased by the blood of Jesus for you?