

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

1 Peter 1:18-21

Intro: Peter speaks of the blood of Christ as "precious blood."

This means that he values it very highly, that there are benefits which are his through the blood of Christ that make it very "precious" to him.

Obviously he is speaking of the death of Christ since he links it with redemption, and because he goes on to describe the Lord as "a lamb without blemish and without spot."

For just a few moments before we observe the Lord's Supper, let me raise and answer the question: What made the blood of Christ "precious" to Peter? And, since it was precious to Peter as a child of God, the blood of Christ should be precious to us for the same reasons.

The answer is too big to be covered in a few minutes, but let us notice what we can see in the text that is before us.

I. IT WAS "PRECIOUS" BECAUSE IT WAS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

Anything that belonged to Christ had to have special value attached to it because there never has been a Person on earth like the Lord Jesus. Note: THE INCARNATION!

Peter uses the word two more times in chapter 2 with reference to the Lord Jesus. See 1 Pet. 2:6, 7.

The Lord Himself was "precious" to the Father, and Peter had heard the Father declare His delight in His Son. Cf. Matt. 17:5.

For those of us who believe He is "precious." No one can compare with Him -- in His character, in His life, in His death and resurrection, in His promises, in His faithfulness, in His love, in His power -- and on and on!

II. IT WAS "PRECIOUS" BECAUSE OF WHAT IT HAD ACCOMPLISHED FOR PETER -- AND FOR US: "REDEEMED"!

This means deliverance, freedom, release by the payment of a price.

In Eph. 1:7 Paul links this with forgiveness, and so to be redeemed carries with it deliverance from our sins, from its penalty.

And we begin to see how "precious" the blood of Christ is when we see that, what we could not have purchased at any price, is ours through the payment Christ made by His blood.

III. IT IS "PRECIOUS" BECAUSE OF WHAT IT MEANT (AND MEANS) TO GOD, THE FATHER.

This, after all, is the crucial issue. If it did not satisfy God, it could not mean anything to us, because we are under judgment before Him.

Why did Christ pay such a price -- such a "precious" price? Was it because of our great worth? That is what we hear today. ABSOLUTELY NOT! The price was high, higher than we could pay, because it had to satisfy the righteousness of God.

Note the crucial issue in the Passover -- after all the care that was taken with the Lamb,
 determining its perfection,
 putting it to death,
 applying the blood,
 the critical time was when the Lord saw the blood. If it please Him, then the firstborn was spared.

So it is with Christ's blood. Verses 20, 21 indicate that He, Christ, was the only One that the Lord intended for such a work. The Father did four things, as Peter says:

- 1) He foreordained the Son for this work.
- 2) He showed forth His Son -- the time of the incarnation when He was actually sent by the Father.
- 3) The resurrection -- indicating the Father's acceptance with His Son's work.
- 4) Glory -- receiving Him back into heaven, awaiting the day of His return as He intercedes for us who believe.

Concl: No wonder Peter calls His blood, "precious" -- because of:

- 1) What the Lord is in Himself -- greater than any other who has ever been on earth.
- 2) What He has done for His people -- a work that none other could do, nor could we have ever done it for ourselves.
- 3) What He means to the Father -- a perfectly acceptable work, infinite in value, all that will ever be needed.

May we worship Him tonight as "precious" as we take the bread and the cup in remembrance of His work for our salvation!