

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD
1 Peter 1:17-21

Intro: The word "precious" must have been a favorite word with Peter because he used it in three different forms 10 times in his two Epistles. They are in the following verses. In 1 Peter:

- 1) 1:7 -- the precious trial of faith.
- 2) 1:19 -- the precious blood.
- 3) 2:4 -- the precious living stone, or cornerstone.
- 4) 2:6 -- the same as 2:4.
- 5) 2:7 -- precious to those who believe.
- 6) 2:17 -- used of honoring the king.
- 7) 3:7 -- used of honoring a wife.

In 2 Peter:

- 8) 1:1 -- the same faith.
- 9) 1:4 -- the promises of God.
- 10) 1:17 -- the honor given to the Son by the Father.

All of these verses indicate that the word conveys three ideas:

- 1) That which is of great value.
- 2) That which is greatly loved.
- 3) That which is to be honored.

Sometimes all three ideas apply; at other times the meaning may be more restricted.

Five times Peter used this word of our Lord: in 1 Pet. 1:19; 2:4, 6, 7; and in 2 Pet. 1:17.

Three of these times have to do with the attitude of the Father toward His Son; the other two have to do with the way we as believers are to consider the Lord -- 1:19; 2:7. Some grammarians would translate 2:7, "Unto you therefore which believe is the preciousness." But this does not change the meaning of the verse since in v. 6 Peter was talking about those who believe on Him, i.e., Christ.

So, according to Peter, this One Who is uniquely precious to God, is precious to us also, and His blood is precious to us. We are to value Him, to prize Him, to love Him, and to honor Him above all else--everything else, and above all others whom we love.

We can readily understand loving the Lord, and considering Him to be of inestimable value to us, but what about His blood? The subject of blood usually leaves people a little squeamish. A lot of people do not like the sight of blood. Here Peter says that the blood of Christ, poured out in that awful, awful sacrifice at Calvary, is precious. What does he have in mind?

Obviously he was speaking of that which was accomplished by

that blood, the redemption that was purchased for us (to which he referred in v. 18). We are to consider it as a priceless sacrifice. No value can possibly be placed upon it. Consequently we are to honor it, and this we are doing tonight as the bread and the cup have been placed on the Table before us. But we are also to love this sacrifice, and we cannot love the sacrifice without loving the One Who made the sacrifice, and loving the One also who sent Him to make that sacrifice.

But now, the questions before us tonight is, Why is it precious? Why did Peter call it, "the precious blood of Christ?"

Let me give you four reasons. I am sure that there are more, but we will confine ourselves to these four reasons tonight, all arising out of the text.

I. IT IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE OF THE ONE WHO SENT CHRIST.

See v. 20. Lit. it speaks of Christ being foreknown, but our translators have expressed the true meaning of the word in saying that Christ "was foreordained."

He did not do this Himself, although He agreed to it. This is what was appointed to Him by the Father. The Lord indicated this in John 3:16:

For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten Son . . .

Paul indicated this in Rom. 5:8:

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Would any of us have any argument with concept that whatever God does is "precious"--of infinite importance and value, especially when it has to do with our eternal blessing? Surely not! All of His works are designed for His glory, and He has done no greater work than that of providing for our salvation.

II. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE OF HIM WHOSE BLOOD IT IS.

If anyone were to die for us to save our life, that person would be dear to us as long as we lived. We would never forget it, and we would never cease talking about it.

But here is something infinitely greater than that!

Think what was involved in the fact that He had blood, that He had a body which could be crucified. This One, our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became a man, and He was a perfect man (as our text says), "without

spot or blemish." And He died as an innocent lamb. He had no sin of His own. He bore our sins, as Peter said in 2:24.

The blood which we honor tonight is not just ordinary blood; this is the blood of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And He died for you; He died for me. We know that now because He is our Saviour.

If the centurion did not feel that he was worthy to have the Lord come to his home (cf. Luke 7:6), what would he have said about this? Do you feel that you are worthy for such a One to die for you?

What amazing truth this is! How we ought to love Him for what He has done! We should never tire of telling others about it.

But here is a third point:

III. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT BLOOD PURCHASED FOR US.

Peter said here that we have been redeemed. Christ's blood was sufficient for our salvation. It is because of Christ's blood that we are forgiven. It is because of Christ's blood that we are going to heaven. It is because of the immense value of Christ's blood that we have a salvation which can never be taken from us. God's righteousness was satisfied by Christ's blood.

I could go on and on. But if you and I want to know all that Christ accomplished for us, read your Bible. The story is there--from Genesis to Revelation.

No wonder that Peter said that our redemption was not purchased for us with silver and gold. All of the riches of a thousand worlds could not have purchased this for us. And yet it is ours as a free gift--all of it. It was purchased at an awful price, but it comes free to us.

When you think of all that you have in Christ, surely you can see clearly how precious the blood of Christ is.

Finally,

IV. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE NOWHERE ELSE CAN YOU AND I GET WHAT CHRIST HAS PROVIDED FOR US.

If God had not been merciful in sending His Son to shed His precious blood for our sins, there would be no salvation. It is not a case of having Christ or someone else.

There is no one else. There is no other saviour. He is the only One Who can save us from our sins. If people do not turn to God through Christ, they will be lost forever in hell.

You probably have read the article today in the Oregonian on heaven. I was relieved when I read what they quoted from what I told them. But they did not say all that I told them. One question I was asked was, Who is going to be in heaven? And my answer was: Only those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. I also told them that the only place we can find any reliable information about heaven is in the Bible.

People talk about heaven as though God had nothing to do with it, as though Christ had nothing to do with it. But they have everything to do with it. That is why Christ shed His precious blood. And there is no heaven for any sinner unless He has been forgiven through that sacrifice which Christ made 2,000 years ago.

Concl: Tonight again we observe the Lord's Supper. Great feelings of love ought to fill our heart every time we come to the Lord's table. We honor His blood, His sacrifice, His death. We love Him because He died for us. And we know that the cup represents the One treasure which is completely above any price we can suggest.

Let us worship and glorify His wonderful Name, and the Name of the Father, and the Name of the Holy Spirit Who has shown us that our only hope for heaven is in Christ.