

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 1:17-21— The Incomparable Christ

February 14, 2016

...knowing that you were ransomed...with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

-1 Peter 1:18-19

I. SAVED BY GRACE - JUDGED BY WORKS

- Christ followers' salvation is secure, but we will be judged according to our deeds. Everyone must one day stand before the judge of the universe (Matt. 25:31-46; John 5:24; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27; 1 Pet. 4:17-18).
- We are judged by our "Father," not by a hot-headed ogre. His judgment is just and impartial (vs. 17).

II. THE FEAR OF THE LORD

- Fearing God is not only reasonable, it is good. It is not a servile fear, but a filial fear like a child to a parent. We "fear" because we know our lives are not lived without consequences (Job 28:28; Ps. 34:11; Prov. 9:10; 2 Cor. 5:11).
- Believers live here in exile. Our citizenship is in heaven (vs. 17; Eph. 2:17-22; Phil. 3:20).

III. THE WORK OF CHRIST

- Jesus the Messiah:
 - A. Ransomed us from a futile life (vs. 18)
 1. Not with perishable things
 - but with his precious blood
 2. Like a lamb without blemish or spot
 - B. Was foreknown before the foundation of the world (vs. 20)
 - C. Was manifest in the last times for our sake
 - who believed because of Jesus
 - D. Was raised to life by God (vs. 21)
 - E. Was given glory by God (vs. 21)
 - making our faith and hope focused on God

KNOW: We serve an awesome God who sent an incomparable Savior to ransom us from a futile life. He is to be feared, served and loved.

DO: Conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.

Suggested Reading:

The Christian Life, by Sinclair Ferguson

The Work of Christ, by Robert Letham (advanced readers)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 1:17-21

1. We said Sunday that Christians will be judged. Is that news to you? Does that seem to mitigate against the idea of salvation by grace for you?
2. How might you teach "the fear of the Lord" to your child or a non-believer? What does it look and feel like?
3. Why does Peter make the point that we were saved not at a huge worldly cost with silver and gold, but with precious blood? What's the point he's driving home?
4. We said Sunday that we have faith in God because of Jesus. Jesus gives us faith. Does that ring true for you? (see Rom. 12:3; Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29)
5. In what ways does this passage make you more or less desirous to pursue Christ? Does it make you more fearful or more hopeful? What do you think was Peter's intent?
6. What will conducting yourself in fear during this time of exile look like for you?