

Read: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Bought Back With More Than Gold

1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

She saw the ad for the American Girl doll, and she got so excited. She could create her own American Girl to look just like her. She could pick the hair color, the eyes, the name. She could even pick the things that this American Girl doll liked. She could make this American Girl doll exactly the way she wanted it. The idea of this doll was the most valuable thing to her. But it cost \$200. She didn't have enough.

Human beings are valuable to God. He made human beings just the way he wanted them to be, down to the very last detail. Adam and Eve were holy and perfect, just like he wanted them. They were so valuable to him! But Adam and Eve decided that they wanted to be something else. They fell into sin, and from that moment forward, all of us are born with that same sin.

But here's the good news. We are still valuable to God! He wants to redeem us or buy us back from the sin that we live in. But does he have enough money to buy us back? Well, if we want to be with God forever in heaven, it's going to take a bit more than \$200. It's going to take nothing less than the payment of a perfect life to buy us back. Think about that for a minute. You would have to wake up in the morning being perfect all day, every day, your whole life! You can try, but you can't. No one can. God sent payment for us. He sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, who was perfect in every way. Jesus gave his own life to buy us back. It wasn't anything like gold or silver that bought us back, it was the holy precious blood of Jesus.

How much are you worth? Sometimes you may feel like you're not worth much. Maybe it seems that no one likes you and everyone is against you. Maybe you feel alone at home sometimes, like there's just no time for you or there are so many things to take care of that you become the forgotten one. Maybe at times you face so much trouble that you even think you aren't worth much to God.

Nothing could be further from the truth! Take comfort in this: you are worth more than money to God! You are worth the life of his own Son. Now, because of Jesus, you have a heaven waiting for you that cannot even begin to compare to the struggles of this day. Hold onto Christ who bought you back with his own blood.

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for Younger Children

- What did Jesus pay to make you his child?
- Name one thing that you can be sure of since Jesus made you his child?

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- What does redeem mean? How did Jesus redeem us?
- Can you think of times when you have felt worthless? How does Jesus show us that we have worth?

Questions for Middle School and Above

- Peter calls Jesus a “lamb without blemish or defect.” Why do you think Jesus was compared to a perfect lamb? What other Bible stories does that remind you of?
- Peter calls the sinful life an “empty way of life.” Jesus says “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). What do you think “life to the full” means?

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for buying us back with your own blood and making us your children. Help us to live each day out of thanksgiving for all that you have done for us. Amen.

Hymn: CW 160:2 – This Joyful Eastertide

My flesh in hope shall rest
And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west
Shall wake the dead in number.

Refrain:

Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain;
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now has Christ arisen!