

—{1}. 1 Peter 1:17–19 Bought With a Price

A. Scripture Reading,

1. 1 Peter 1:17-19: 17 And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (NAS)

B. The Violin —{2}.

'Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile:

"What am bidden, good folks?" he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar! A dollar!" then "Two! Only two?"
"Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars once, three dollars twice ...
And going for three ... " but no.
From the room, far back, a gray-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow.

Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As a carolling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low
Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.

"A thousand dollars! And who'll make it two?
"Two thousand! Who'll make it three?
"Three going once? Three going twice?
"And going ... and gone!" said he.

The people cheered but some of them cried,
"We do not understand!
What changed its worth?" — Swift came the reply,
"The touch of the Master's Hand."

And many a man with life out of tune
And battered and scarred with sin
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd
Much like the old violin.

A "mess o' pottage", A glass of wine
A game and he travels on.
He's "going" once, And "going" twice
And "going" ... and almost "gone"

Then along comes the Master, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul or the change that's wrought
By the touch of the Master's Hand.

C. Auctioned off cheaply

1. it is both amazing and sad to think of the transient things
 - a. of pleasure
 - b. of power
 - c. of prestige
 - d. of possessions
 - e. the cheap price for which people will auction themselves off, giving their strength, their energy, their time, their life

2. our text has something to say about one of these, possessions
 - a. "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold ..."
 - (A) silver and gold – perishable? ... corruptible?
 - (B) that is not what most people think
 - (1) even though silver tarnishes, it doesn't lose its value; just a little polish and it's like new
 - (2) gold, never rusts nor loses its lustre
 - (3) so they think that these things are lasting, valuable
 - b. so that for these things, people are willing to give so much!
 - c. yet silver and gold; possessions and riches really are not lasting – at least not so far as their owner is concerned
 - (A) for, when to their owner
 - (1) sickness comes, their value diminishes
 - (2) and when death comes their value ceases

3. You do not have to be religious to realize this truth ^{—(3)}.
 - a. H. G. Wells, famous historian and philosopher, said at age 61: "I have no peace. All life is at the end of the tether."
 - b. The poet Byron said, "My days are in yellow leaf, the flowers and fruits of life are gone, the worm and the canker, and the grief are mine alone."
 - c. The literary genius Thoreau said, "Most men live lives of quiet desperation."

4. What is your most prized possession?

- a. Pastor Rittenhouse and his family were on vacation travelling down the highway when they saw a suitcase fly off the top of a car going in the opposite direction. They stopped to pick it up, but the driver of the other car never stopped. The only clue to the driver's identity was a twenty dollar gold piece inscribed, "Given to Otis Sampson at his retirement by Portland Cement Company."
- b. After extensive correspondence, Otis Sampson was located and contacted. He wrote a letter telling them to discard the suitcase and all its contents, and send only the gold piece. Mr. Sampson used the phrase "my most precious possession," several times to describe the gold piece. Pastor Rittenhouse sent the gold piece, and wrote a cover letter telling Otis Sampson about his most prized possession, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c. A year later, the pastor received a Christmas package. In it was a twenty dollar gold piece. Mr. Sampson wrote, "You will be happy to know that we have become active members of a church. We want you to have this gold piece. I am seventy-four; my wife is seventy-two. You were the first one to tell us about Jesus. Now He is our most prized possession." —^{4}.
- d. Peter understood this
 - (A) His most prized possession was the Lord Jesus Christ
 - (B) the Lord, the Master who possessed him
 - (C) the Master who had bought him with a price
 - (D) "not redeemed with silver or gold ... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ."

D. The Precious Blood of Jesus

1. when we talk about Christ's shed blood saving us from sin
 - a. we are using a short phrase that is full of meaning
 - (A) 1st, the life is in the blood; so a life was paid for us
 - (B) 2nd, the life paid was God's Anointed One, Messiah, and God's own eternal Son; a life of infinite worth
 - (C) 3rd, the life paid was a punishment, in public execution
 - (1) so, although He was perfectly innocent of all sin
 - (2) He could legitimately bear our sin, our punishment

- b. Consider two men ⁻⁽⁵⁾.
- (A) an academic arguing that sin and the fall of man are fallacies invented by the superstitions;
 - (B) a savage, sacrificing a chicken on a makeshift altar;
 - (C) answer in your own mind this question: which of these two men is closer to the truth?
- c. so John the Baptist could rightly say of Jesus, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' (John 1:29 NAS)

2. Christ's death on the cross

- a. was no accident
- b. was no miscalculation
- c. for it was God's plan from eternity past ... '... the Lamb who was killed before the world was made.' Revelation 13:8
- d. it was portrayed for centuries in every Jewish sin offering
- e. then Jesus Christ, the Son of God, carried it out to obey Father God, John 10:17–18, 'For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.' (NAS)
- f. so, even though it appeared ...
 - (A) ... that Satan was victorious at the cross
 - (B) ... that it was the work of Jewish and Gentile rulers
- g. in reality, it was the consummation of God's plan
 - (A) as Peter proclaimed on Pentecost, Acts 2:23, 'this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.' (NAS)
 - (B) the work of salvation Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 2:7–8: 'but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory' (NAS)
 - (C) required by the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden
 - (D) promised to Abraham to be given through his Seed

- (E) developed through His chosen people, Israel
- (F) and brought to completion through wicked men
- (G) God in Christ reconciling lost man to Himself

E. So we call Christ Jesus our Lord

1. quite properly

- a. for He is our master
- b. He has that right through creation: **'All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.'** (John 1:3 NAS) for which reason God says in Ezekiel 18:4: **'Every soul is mine'**
- c. and even though
 - (A) mankind in Adam and Eve rebelled against Him
 - (B) repudiating His ownership
 - (C) we all inherit Adam and Eve's sinful nature
 - (D) being born as rebels against God
- d. yet, He regains His right as Master a second time

2. for, by His death

- a. He has bought back from out of mankind
 - (A) people who were held in bondage by sin
 - (B) people who were in Satan's domain, this world
 - (C) a people for Himself - Titus
- b. all those who will accept the price He paid for their sin
- c. 'redeeming life from destruction'

F. What is it?

1. What is it that keeps men, women, boys, girls from trusting in Christ?

- a. it is that old rebellious nature
- b. disguised in many forms – intellectual disbelief, boredom, disinterest, selfishness and self-centeredness, and so on

- c. which says,
 - (A) I want to live my life my way
 - (B) I don't want anybody, any book, telling me what to do
 - (C) I don't want a Master
 - d. but, oh! what an eternal cost for those who persist in their unbelief, who sell themselves cheaply
 - (A) to this world's crowd
 - (B) to this world's pleasure
 - (C) to this world's transient glory
 - e. let no one here this morning make that terrible mistake
2. What is it that keeps Christians from fully owning Christ as Master?
- a. striving to keep one foot in the world, one in heaven
 - (A) to do the impossible
 - (B) to serve God
 - (C) to serve mammon
 - b. it is that same old nature in each one of us that says,
 - (A) I want to live my life my way
 - (B) I don't want anybody, any book, telling me what to do
 - (C) I don't want a Master
 - c. but after this morning considering the price our rightful Master has paid to buy us back to Himself
 - Oh, the Love that sought me!
 - Oh, the blood that bought me!
 - Oh, the grace that brought me to the fold!
 - Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold! —{6}.
 - d. an eternal, infinite love
 - e. an eternal, infinite price
 - f. shall we not seek to walk each day fully in the light of the fact that we are redeemed, bought with a price?

1. © 2006 by Garth Hutchinson, Faith Fellowship Baptist Church of Aurora (Ontario): may be distributed or quoted freely, only let this be done to the glory “of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Various English versions of the Holy Bible are used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in [square brackets]. The versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1975 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
NLT	1996 New Living Translation © 1996 by Tyndale Charitable Trust
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Further sermons and illustrations may be found at the web-site, www.holwick.com. Materials in this sermon from Rev. David Holwick's database are identified by “Kerux” followed by a sermon or illustration number.

2. The Touch of the Master's Hand, by Myra Ross Welch, 1926; Kerux illustrations #16477
3. From “The God-Shaped Void” in “Morning Glory”, Kerux Illustration #19176
4. From Australia's Fair Dinkum E-zine, editor Andrew Craig; Kerux illustrations #4812
5. Professor Ralph Wood to a class, Kerux Illustration #29258
6. “Oh, the Love that Sought me!” by W. Spencer Walton, Rev. A. J. Gordon, DD; Sankey's Sacred Songs and Solos