

# Joshua & Peter: The Sufficiency of God

## Lesson 5: The Sufficiency of God's Savior

**Key Verse:** ...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.~1 Peter 1.18-19

“Get ready for action!” Peter’s transition from introductory greetings extolling salvation found in Jesus moves quickly into preparedness for action. No doubt this doesn’t shock Peter’s readers! Peter’s call to action is secured in the **redemption** provided by God through the **Lamb of God**. *Beautiful Savior, Lamb of God who has taken away our sins through Your precious blood, Thank You. Prepare our minds, keep us realistic in the midst of brokenness and broken circumstances, and most of all, keep us obedient to You, our Father. May our time in Your Word encourage us to be holy, as You are holy. In Your Holy Name above all names, Amen.*

**1 Peter 1.13-25** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**14** As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” **17** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, **18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

**20** He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you **21** who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**22** Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, **23** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; **24** for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

### Diamonds:

As a man of action, it is not too surprising Peter is exhorting God’s people into action. More than a Christian to-do list, Peter’s calls to action are anchored in God’s work through His Son, Jesus Christ (V 20-21). As such, in this passage, God’s people and their actions are tethered to God through faith, hope, and holiness. Anchored in God, faith, hope, and holiness are made possible in us by “the precious blood of Christ” (V 19).

1. Using the verses below, list the four reasons we should be holy (V 17 has two unique reasons):
  - a. V 15-16 + 2 Corinthians 3.18; 1 John 3.2-3
  - b. V 17 + Romans 8.15
  - c. V 17 + Matthew 16.27; Revelation 20.12
  - d. V 18-19
2. While acknowledging all the reasons Peter provides are compelling in their call to holiness, which reason is most compelling to you now, and why?

In this week’s passage, Peter tells us to obey what is true (the gospel, V 25; Colossians 1.5-6). What we believe is true is reflected in our actions. As such, Peter is not *commanding* any action. Rather, and more seriously, Peter is exhorting God’s people to *believe*. To obey the truth is to believe it. To believe the truth is to obey it.

3. Reading this passage in any translation(s) that helps you understand, identify the beliefs and what subsequent actions should follow those beliefs. You may find several, or it may be easier to find one and focus on it alone. (If this is challenging, simply list out the beliefs Peter is reinforcing, and then make a separate list of actions found in this portion of Peter's letter.)
  
4. Consider your actions today. What beliefs do they reveal? Likewise, how do they reveal unbelief?

**Deity: Lamb of God-** From the death of the first animal to clothe fallen Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3.21), God has demonstrated the need for a blood sacrifice to cover our sin (Leviticus 4; Isaiah 57). These sacrifices were repeated by God's people throughout history and made according to God's specified pattern (Exodus 12.1-30). They all pointed forward to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the One John the Baptist declared is 'The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!' (John 1.29)

5. Theologians suggest that Peter had Psalm 34 in mind as he wrote this letter. Chapters 1 and 3 contain the strongest proofs of this line of thinking. Read Psalm 34 noting David's strength in his longing and forward-looking hope in Messiah. Now read this week's passage noting Peter's joy as he calls God's Church to action in the truth of Christ's redeeming work (use any translation you are enjoying).

How does your attitude, prayer-life, simplest interactions in the world, or response in your current trial, reflect joy and hope in the fact that you have been redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ", the Lamb of God (V 19)?

**Doctrine: Redemption-** Redemption is a word borrowed from the commercial world of the ancient near east slave trade to describe how Jesus has purchased us in the marketplace of sin to set us free from sin's dreadful bondage.

God's law introduces redemption in Leviticus 25. An enslaved person could be redeemed by a close relative or a near kin, also called a kinsman-redeemer. This law pointed God's people to the coming Messiah, Jesus, as our Kinsman-Redeemer. Hosea's purchase of Gomer in the Old Testament book of Hosea perfectly illustrates redemption (Hosea 3.1-2).

In the New Testament, Peter describes redemption in 1 Peter 1.18-19. By the death of Jesus Christ, we are purchased or set free from slavery to sin and death (Romans 6.22-23; 1 Corinthians 6.19-20). Therefore, we are Christ's possession. We belong to Him (Ephesians 1.7-14). We must live like it!

6. List the adjectives used to describe the act of redemption from V 18, Acts 20.28, and 1 Corinthians 6.20. Which of these adjectives really drives home this work of God on your behalf? Why?

God's redeemed people are called to be ready for action (alert minds, V 13), realistic ("sober-minded", V 13), and obedient to God ("obedient children", V 14). This has always been true of God's people. God's consistent expectation of His people is revealed in Joshua's decision for action, the obedience of the spies, and the pragmatic approach to Rahab's deliverance (Lesson 4). As we saw in that story, God has the power to redeem us, our brokenness, and our broken circumstances.

7. Because redemption is through God's work in Christ, His children can persevere in obedience. What are you doing to prepare for action, even as, or especially as, circumstances get messy?
  
8. What action should you be taking but are unwilling because of the reality of the cost of the obedience to Him?
  
9. From what brokenness is God redeeming you?

**Your Scripture-Soaked Prayer:** This week, using any of the scripture you looked up while completing this lesson, choose the scripture(s) that you would like to pray, or have been prompted to pray. Write a Scripture-Soaked Prayer to pray this week as you apply the lessons God taught you in 1 Peter 1.13-25.

#### **Lecture Outline:**

**Aim:** We ought to resemble our Heavenly Father in Holiness.

I. Children of God (1 Peter 1:13-21) **T1:** As Christians, we are called to live in holiness because we are children of a Holy God.

- a. How does your Father's example show you the holy way to approach the difficult situations in your life?
- b. How does your life reveal that you fear Him? Or how that you don't fear Him? What things that God has done and will do do you need to keep in your mind's eye in order to cultivate a biblical fear of God?

II. Children of the Word (1 Peter 1:22-25) **T2:** As Christians, God's Word defines us and sets us apart to live in holiness with one another.

- a. To what extent is the Word of God your culture? How does it shape your day? Your values? Your way of speaking? Your tastes? How can you make it more so?
- b. How well do you love your brothers and sisters in Christ? In light of their eternal relationship with you, how can you make them a priority and love them more sincerely?

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Dorani, Daniel M., *1 Peter*, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Company, 2014) pgs.36-59