

Salvation Doesn't Come At A Discount! (1 Peter 1:17-21)

Intro: *Discounted cars, discount stores, wholesale prices, "I can get it at discount"*

I. OUR SALVATION WAS NOT CHEAP

- A. Theoretically, God could have used the world's treasures to redeem man
 - 1. He "*owns the cattle on a thousand hills*" (Psalm 50:10)
 - 2. However, the price for our redemption was too steep (v.18)
- B. God could have demanded obedience to His Law to earn salvation
 - 1. This is what Peter calls "*The empty way handed down*" (v. 18)
 - 2. Jesus answered the claim that 'good works' was the way (Mtt.5:48)
 - 3. The prophet Isaiah said the same thing: about 'filthy rags' (64:6)
- C. Salvation's cost was free... but not cheap!
 - 1. Free...but costly beyond measure: "*the blood of Christ*" (vv.18-20)
 - 2. Our "wages" have been paid (the wages of sin & death) - (Rom.6:23)
 - 3. It cost God the death of His Son (Jn. 3:16)
- D. Salvation does not come at a discount... how precious is it to you?
 - 1. How's your life of – worship, stewardship, service, prayer, outreach?
 - 2. Is God used only as a *911* number?

II. WE ARE NOT TO CHEAPEN OUR SALVATION

- A. Early Christians were tempted to do this and so are we
 - 1. Believers under Emperor Nero's persecution @60 A.D.
 - 2. Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer under WWII Nazi persecution
- B. We are called to live as "*strangers*" to this world's values & standards (v.17)
 - 1. We are not to be *conformed* to this world's patterns (Rom. 12:2)
 - 2. We are to be *holy*: set apart, different
- C. Our life of faith is not a cheap discount, but a valuable commitment (v.21)

Concl: *Freedom from a Nazi Concentration Camp: Salvation at a great cost*