

Salvation Doesn't Come At a Discount! (1 Peter 1:17-25)

Introduction: *Discount 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 us
 - 1. He "*owns the cattle on a thousand hills*" (Psalm 50:10)
 - 2. However, the price for our redemption was too steep (1Pt. 1:18-19)
- B. God could have demanded obedience to His Law that we might earn salvation
 - 1. This is what Peter calls "*the futile way handed down*" (1 Pt.1:18)
 - 2. Jesus answered the claim that 'good works' are the way (Mtt.5:48)
 - 3. The prophet Isaiah said the same thing (Isa. 64:6)
- C. Salvation's cost was free (for us) but not cheap (to God)
 - 1. Free...but costly beyond measure: "*the blood of Christ*" (1 Pt.1:18-19)
 - 2. Our 'wages' have been paid (the wages of sin & death)- (Rom. 6:23)
 - 3. Our salvation cost the death of Christ Jesus (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. Do you use God only as a *911 number*?

II. WE ARE NOT TO CHEAPEN OUR SALVATION

- A. Early Christians were tempted to do this & so are we
 - 1. In today's sermon text, Peter writes to believers suffering Emperor Nero's persecution
 - 2. Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer suffered Nazi persecution
- B. We are called to live as "*strangers*" to this world's values (1 Pt. 1:17)
 - 1. We are not to be "*conformed*" to this world's patterns (Rom. 12:1)
 - 2. We are to be *holy* – set apart, different
 - 3. Our life of faith is not cheap... it is a valuable commitment

Conclusion: *Salvation at a great cost: freedom from a Nazi concentration camp*