

“Salvation: Free, But Not Cheap”

1 Peter 1:17-25

INTRODUCTION: The old saying – “*You get what you pay for*”

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 (1 Peter 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 Peter 1:18)
 - 2. Jesus answered the claim that ‘good works’ are the way (Matthew 5:48)
 - 3. The prophet Isaiah said the same thing (Isaiah 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 Peter 1:18-19)
 - 2. Our ‘wages’ have been paid (the wages of sin & death) (Romans 6:23)
 - 3. Our salvation cost the death of Christ Jesus (John 3:16)
 - 4. How about *a five hour walk to Sunday worship with an African tribesman?*
- 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. Under Nazi persecution, Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book: *The Cost of Discipleship*
- B. We are called to live as “*strangers*” to this world’s values (1 Peter 1:17)
 - 1. We are not to be “*conformed*” to this world’s patterns (Romans 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 World War Two Nazi concentration camp