# "A REVERENT LIFESTYLE"

**I Peter 1:17-21**
10-17-2021

INTRODUCTION:

***"Pass the time here in fear!"**

Three incentives to living with a deep respect for God:

**I. The <u>AUTHORITY</u> of God (v. 17a)**
(God is the ultimate Authority of my life)

A. God is *"Father"*

B. God is impartial

C. God is Judge

**II. The <u>BREVITY</u> of Life (v. 17b)**
(This world is my temporary residence, not my home)

**III. The <u>PRICE</u> of Redemption (v. 18-21)**
(I have been bought at a great price)

A. Redemption is not <u>cheap</u> (v. 18)

B. Redemption was <u>costly</u> (v. 19)

C. Redemption was <u>foreordained</u> (v. 20)

D. Redemption is all of <u>God</u> (v. 21)

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# "A REVERENT LIFESTYLE"

**I Peter 1:17-21**
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INTRODUCTION:

ILLUS: The lack of a real "fear of God" in our world today. As evidenced by the disrespect for the Bible, the mocking of morals and principle, the outright blasphemy toward Christ.

How daring are people who talk lightly about or disrespectful to God!

He is not (as the worldly actress said at the Grammy Awards) "the man upstairs." He is not (as the baseball player called Him) "the great Yankee in the sky" (Wiersbe, p. 398).

And God's last name is not "damn"!

*NOTE: How many Old Testament scribes feared God so much they would not even pronounce His name or write it without first bathing and getting a new pen.

People should have a healthy fear of God.

Eccl. 12:13 - *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*

Deut. 5:29 - *"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*"

Job 28:28 - *"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."*

(cp. Prov. 1:7; 9:10)

The imperative of verses 17-21 is this: *"<u>Pass the time</u>. . . in fear"* (conduct your life with a serious reverence for God; live with a deep respect for God)

***"Pass the time here in fear!"**

Three incentives to living with a deep respect for God:

**I. The <u>AUTHORITY</u> of God (v. 17a)**
(God is the ultimate Authority of my life)

A. God is *"Father"*

***"If ye call on the Father" -*** Another way of saying: "If you are born again and God is your Father upon whom you depend"

NASV - *"If you address as Father"*

If God is your Father, do you reverence Him as a Father should be? (Mal. 1:6 - *"A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. . ."*)

If God is your Father, live like He is your Father.

Our *"<u>Father</u>"* in Heaven is holy (Jn. 17:11) and righteous (Jn. 17:25).

Children often do things they would not normally do when their Father is not around - but our Father is constantly looking and evaluating our lives. This should provoke a healthy fear.

A Father of an obedient son will always be feared.

We ought to love our Heavenly Father enough that we fear to displease Him.

B. God is impartial

***"Without respect of persons" -*** without favoritism, without partiality. God has no "pets," no one that can "con" or "buy Him off."

You will not be treated with preferential treatment.

Peter himself came to realize *"of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons"* (Acts 10:34).

Once a man, excusing his disobedience to God's Word, brushed off a long rebuke by a friend with the words, "God and I have this deal made out. He knows me and He knows where I'm at. We have a deal between us."

God will accept no bribes (Deut. 10:17 - *"For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward."*)

Nor will He show favoritism when He judges (Rom. 2:11 - *"For there is no respect of persons with Him")*

C. God is Judge

***"Judgeth" -*** to evaluate, scrutinize, and examine something or someone.

Just as a good father judges his children impartially (fairly), so God will (and -is- - present tense) judging His children impartially.

God's basis of evaluation (judgment) is:

1) Impartial

2) Universal - *"every man"*
(Even all the lost heathen will be judged based on their "*works"* - Rev. 20:11-12)

3) Objective - *"works"*
(One can say we have *"faith"* but our works scream louder and clearer - Ja. 2:18)

The Judgment Seat of Christ will determine [not your salvation] but your eternal rewards (gained or forfeited forever!).

The Judgment Seat of Christ is a sobering future reality (II Cor. 5:10-11; I Cor. 3:14).

**II. The <u>BREVITY</u> of Life (v. 17b)**
(This world is my temporary residence, not my home)

***"Your <u>sojourning</u>" -*** to have a temporary residence alongside. To temporarily stay without citizen rights. Our life on this earth is a "brief stay"; our roots should not be too deep because we are only sojourners here; we are foreigners; pilgrims in a strange land; "aliens" from another world - a heavenly one.

This world is not our final portion, it is our <u>passage-way</u>. As the hymnwriter said: "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin through. . ."

"It was when Lot stopped being a sojourner, and became a resident in Sodom, that he lost his consecration and his testimony. Everything he lived for went up in smoke! Keep reminding yourself that you are a *"stranger and pilgrim"* in this world (SEE: IPet. 1:1; 2:11) (Wiersbe, p. 398).

When the unsaved mock or ridicule you for being "<u>different</u>," don't let them pressure you into conforming to their philosophies and lifestyles. They will think you are "strange" that you don't run with them (4:4), but don't let them "de-salt" you or dim your light!

People do not live in a fear of God who assume that their life is out from the control of God (they don't realize that God could snuff out their light tonight). They think in their heart that death is not even possibly on the immediate horizon. They forget how fragile life really is! How uncertain our days really are!

Psalm 90:12 - *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom"*

Eph. 5:15-16 - *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*

James 4:14 - *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."*
(cp. a man who did not live life with a comprehension of life's uncertain duration - Luke 12:16-21).

When God says: Your heart has beat for the last time, it will not beat again. When the Lord decrees that you have breathed your last breath, you will never inhale again!
*Proverbs 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

## III. The PRICE of Redemption (v. 18-21)

(I have been bought at a great price)

A. Redemption is not cheap (v. 18)

***"Forasmuch as ye know" =*** having known.

What we know (by faith) affects how we live (in the flesh).

***"Redeemed" -*** to be released by payment of a ransom (to be bought - passively by God).

***"Corruptible" -*** perishable, subject to decay

***"Silver and gold" -*** will perish, and that which it buys will perish.

***"Vain" -*** there is no better word to describe the lifestyle of the lost
***"Vain conversation" -*** worthless lifestyle.

You were not redeemed out of your former empty, hollow, void way of living by silver and gold.

Silver and gold was used in purchasing slaves in the ancient world. We, too, were once slaves of sin, but now are slaves of Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:17-22)

Money did not save you from a life that lacked reality (a vain lifestyle that was handed down to you from your fathers (from whom you inherited a sin nature).

***"Tradition" -*** that which is handed down or passed on from one generation to the next.

B. Redemption was costly (v. 19)

***"Precious" -*** the most obvious word Peter could have used if he was teaching that the blood of Christ was still literally in existence today would have been *"imperishable"* (to correlate with the word ***"corruptible"*** [V. 18]).

But rather, Peter uses the word *"precious"* - pointing to its lasting value.

Christ's blood was precious because the One who shed it was unblemished (blameless) and spotless (stainless). He was sinless! The Law required an unblemished sacrifice (Lev. 22:19-25) because it was a picture of the sinless Lamb of God (Jn. 1:29, 36) who took away the sins of the world by His substitutionary death on Calvary's altar.

That which much money is spent on is not treated cheaply!

The great price that Christ bought us with ought to provoke us to not throw our lives out to the swine, but to fear the loss of a life that has value and meaning.

The fear a child of God has for his heavenly Father is not a fear of being cast into hell (I Jn. 4:18), but is a *"godly fear"* (II Cor. 7:1) of being a disappointment or a failure for Him.

It is a fear of sinning against His love and living a careless life for Him when He has done so much for us!

Because Joseph loved God, he feared committing the great wickedness of adultery against God (Gen. 39:9).

God provided redemption for you at a great cost.

How dare we view His work cheaply and live lives that do not resemble the Master who owns us (SEE: I Cor. 6:19-20).

C. Redemption was <u>foreordained</u> (v. 20)

On the one hand, Christ's death (bloodshed) was pre-known (foreknown, pre-planned) before the foundation of the world, but on the other hand, it was manifested or made clear or plain in these last times for your sake.

Christ's bloody death was not an accident or an afterthought.

It was planned in the determined will of god before creation (this is why Christ is called "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" - Rev. 13:8).

Although Christ's death was in the mind of God from all eternity, it was not accomplished until *"the fullness of time was come"* (Gal. 4:4).

***"For you" -*** Christ's redemption must be personalized to become operative in your life

(cp. Gal. 2:20 - *"who loved <u>me</u> and gave Himself for <u>me</u>")*

The fact that our Lord planned our redemption before the world began should cause us to be afraid of failing Him who had us in mind!

D. Redemption is all of God (v. 21)

***"Who by Him do believe" -*** It is by means of (through) Christ that we are believers in God.

No one believes in the true God apart from a vital relationship with the Son of God.

Christ's death (v. 19), His resurrection (v. 21) and exaltation to former glory (v. 21) are the key elements to the Gospel message and such truths give us a faith and hope that is in God!

*"**Your faith (belief) and hope (confidence) are in God**"* - not in man, religion, ourselves, our works, our traditions but in the living God.

A true believer has such a respect for God because it is God upon whom we trust for salvation.

Whatever you trust for salvation will be what you reverence (EX: Catholics reverence Mary, the pope, the Catholic mass, etc., because that is where their hope lies).

ILLUS: Hymn: "My hope is in the Lord, who gave Himself for me, and paid the price of all my sin at Calvary. For me, He died, for me, He lives and everlasting life and light he freely gives."

CONCLUSION: