

**“What Jesus is BUILDING INTO His Church” (part 4)  
February 28, 2016**

**CORE:** (In this timeless letter, from a passionate lover/follower of Jesus—we are encouraged to **live fearless lives of fiery compassion—resulting in a transformed culture!**) Jesus is BUILDING INTO HIS CHURCH amazing convictions—changing our internal world AND the world around us!

**1 Peter 1:18-25**

**KEY WORD:** (v. 18) “You know”- *a clear revelation resulting in a strong, settled conviction*

**1. Confident in THE BLOOD OF JESUS**

(v. 18) “Redeemed...not with silver...from the empty way of life”-

- Based on a command in **Numbers 18:15-16** (*Pidyon Ha’Ben*)
- All 1<sup>st</sup> born sons, designated to be priests, were **bought back** from the priests by paying them **5 shekels of silver**
- Reminder that God had **spared 1<sup>st</sup> born sons in Egypt**
- **Also, acknowledged that everything belongs to the LORD** (*even our children*)
- Yet, this had eventually become a “token ritual”

(v. 19) “...but with the precious blood of Christ”-

- Jesus is “the firstborn of many children” (Romans 8:29)
- Be “bought us back” (“*Here I am, and the children You have given Me*” *Isaiah 8:18; Hebrews 2:13*), bringing us into a new “bloodline”!

**2. Confident in the PURPOSEFUL HEART OF GOD**

- (v. 20) “He was chosen before the foundation of the world!”
- Jesus is “the Lamb, slain before the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8) He was the Redeemer before He was the Creator!
- He knew what He was in for before we rebelled! Reveals His heart is **GOOD, WISE, RESPONSIBLE** (and above all) **LOVING!**

NOTE: Knowing this should greatly impact our view of a hostile world. God is not panicked by sinful refusal to obey Him. Instead, He is sovereignly moving toward all humanity, drawing all to Himself—despite the fact that some will choose to resist & refuse Him!

- **If He is not panicked—neither should we be.** (NOTE: Jesus declared, “...and the gates of hell will not prevail” in Caesarea Philippi—a city dedicated to Pan—demonic spirit dedicated to causing confusion & “pan-ic”).

NOTE: Church history is an endless account of—revivals & compromises; covenant love & covenant breaking; divisions & reconciliation; heresies & truth restored. **It's amazing a Church still exists after 2,000 of this stuff!**

**Here's why: the One building it began it "before time began," therefore, it will stand the test of time!**

### **3. Confident in HIS TRUTH & HIS LOVE**

- Because He **loves us**—He tells us the **Truth**
- Because He's **truthful**—we **love Him more. Love & Truth are inseparable!**
- NOTE: Every problem in the Church is **usually rooted in having one w/o the other (i.e., Truth or Love)**
  - **Rev. 2- Ephesus-** Loved truth; hated those caught in deception. **"Lost your first love!"**
    - *When you hate lies—yet, stop loving—you become as hateful as the sin you hate (i.e., Pharisees)*
  - **Rev. 2- Pergamum & Thyatira-** Loving, yet tolerated open sin & false teaching.
    - *Loving one another—does not include ignoring sin*
- **He is bringing us to "deeper love"!**
  - **From "love of the brethren"- (*phileo*)-** *Social; companionship; agreement (i.e., "I like you because you like what I like!")*
  - **To "fervent in love"- (*agape*)-** *The love God has. Loving others because God loves you. Goes beyond liking those who like you! Only way this works is by "death" to our self-centeredness!*

### **CONCLUSION-**

**All this is possible because we have been "born again by an imperishable seed, through the Living and Enduring Word of God (i.e., Jesus)" (v. 23)**

- On our own—we can only **"flourish"** so far **"(Isaiah 40:6-8- "All men are like grass...the grass withers and the flowers fall.")**
- But **"the Word of God (*who became flesh*) endures forever!"**

**He is NOW making Himself known—"fleshing out" His heart, His voice, His ways—to the world THROUGH HIS CHURCH!**

(NOTE: We are learning to "put off the old" (*Lit.- "as a snake shedding its skin"*) and letting the redeemed/restored "new life" come forth!)