

INTRO: Don't you just hate it when you shop for weeks, and finally take the plunge and buy something, only to have somebody tell you the next day that his sister-in-law bought the same thing for 10% less! We like a good bargain; the price has to be right.

## I. THE PRICE FOR MAN'S SALVATION WASN'T CHEAP

### A. God could have required any earthly treasure

1. v.18 - but **not** with perishable things such as gold or silver
2. I never considered AG or AU as perishable (lettuce, maybe)
3. 2 Peter 2:10 - everything on this earth one day will burn up
4. God owns all, but used none of this to pay the redemption price
5. all the wealth in the world was **not** God's redemption price for sin

### B. Absolute, complete obedience from man would seem reasonable

1. after all, sin is **disobedience**
2. rational man reasons: tit for tat; do the crime, pay the fine
3. Rom.6:23 wages of sin is death; James 2:10 - offend on one point...
4. Lev.19:2 - ye shall be holy... Matt.5:28 - be ye therefore perfect...
5. hence, no sinful man can redeem himself, let alone, everybody else
6. v.17 - God judges each impartially, according to his deeds

### C. Man's atonement cost that which was dearest to God

1. think about that which is dearest to a father; to you
2. v.19 - ransomed with the precious blood of Christ, who is God
3. as an O.T. lamb w/o spot or blemish; i.e., sinless, holy
4. this is no discount store blue light special
5. can't even say most expensive **in the world**; out of this world!
6. ransom price to satisfy **God**, on behalf of the world; for eternity
7. paid by God; free to us; so, how do we value it?
8. cp. MCMT; 50% flunkout; kids w/cars; skip class; I paid for mine
9. people prize what is earned; neglect or abuse what we get for nothing
10. cp. free gov't low-income housing (Norm Cox) Israel's manna

## II. REDEEMED MAN OUGHT NOT CHEAPEN GOD'S SALVATION

### A. First century believers were thus tested

1. testing began with Stephen's stoning to death (Acts 7:29)

(continued)

2. then Herod had James Bar Zebedee killed (Acts 12:2)
3. Saul of Tarsus arrested, delivered Christians to be put to death
4. atrocities under Nero beginning at this writing by Peter
5. temptations to hide one's faith, to deny, as Peter earlier did
6. profess Christ, but deny in the company of the hostile
7. different consequences here today, but the same temptation
8. some want discipleship w/o responsibility of obedience to Him
9. this I call 'cheap grace'

B.v.17 - Peter says, "Live in this world as exiles, sojourners"

1. that means we are different from the 'residents' of this world
2. cheap grace wants God's name, but the world's ways
3. devil and world say "conform to the majority"
4. our stay in this world is brief, compared to our eternal home
- 5 v.17 - live in fear (cp. Sm. Cat. "we should fear and love God...")
6. fear His judgment; awe and respect for our holy God
7. God will judge stewardship of salvation bought w/great price

C. We have been chosen to bear His name (like bride)

1. you were ransomed (review Lent) Christ's possession
2. by His grace, you have been saved from damnation (Eph.2:8)
3. God raised Him, so you can have absolute confidence in God
4. you are created anew in Christ Jesus; born again (v.23)
- 5...for good works, to give God glory
6. not conforming to **His** will **cheapen** Jesus' sacrifice
7. giving in to the world defiles Jesus' holy name: Christian
8. plenty to speak up against: abortions; Canada euthanasia; same-sex marriage; transitioning sexes; "listen to the children" no, to God
9. and as you speak out, you may encounter some persecution

CONCLUSION: I must admit that the term 'cheap grace' is not my invention. Rev. Dietrich Bonhoefer, in prison, accused of plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, awaiting execution; challenged Christians to stand up, speak out against an evil world. His point was that God's grace was not cheap. Salvation for us meant that the Son of God shed His blood as the perfect Lamb, True God, on Calvary. We are bought with a price, so we ought to glorify God with these earthly bodies. He deserves the very best from us, lest we cheapen His name by living in conformity with this evil world. Amen..