

# As Slaves We Need a Better Master!

In 1 Peter 1:13-21 Peter exhorts us to “*prepare your minds*” and “*be holy in all you do*” as a believer in Jesus Christ—as a Christian. In verses 18 & 19 he gives us the reason: We were ransomed by the precious blood of Christ! In these verses Peter uses a word which refers to the redemption price of a slave in his use of the word translated “*silver*” in the text.

The word for the redemption price of a slave in the Greek is “*agora*” or “*the marketplace.*” This word is at root of the word used in our text, (“*argurio*”) “*silver.*”

Merely the use of this term conjures up the following scenario. In the first century a person born a slave was destined to die a slave even though the word “*agora*” hints to a possible redemption price. This price was out of the ability of a slave to acquire because a slave has no means to earn this kind of “*silver and gold.*” If somehow a slave were to have this redemption sum of silver or gold, there was a way a slave could gain his freedom, but it was a bizarre method of redemption.

Even with the redemption silver and gold in hand, a slave could not buy himself from his master, but he could give the money to an idol’s temple. In turn they could barter for the slave, and the master was obligated to sell the slave to the gods of that temple. In reality the slave was then the property of the temple, but for all intents and purposes he was free for a fee to the temple for buying him from his old master. Better to be a slave to a god than a slave to a man.

This is the undertone of this passage. You and I were slaves to Satan because of our unrighteousness and sin. We were sold into slavery to death because of our greed, lust, selfishness, and sin. We have been redeemed from death and slavery, but not with “*silver*” or “*gold*” which could purchase a slave in ancient times. We have been purchased with the “*precious blood of Christ.*” We have been redeemed by God for Christ. For all intents and purposes we are free, but we are now the willing possession of God as servants in His temple for Jesus our new Lord. Better to be God’s servant than to be Satan’s.

Peter reminds us that a Christian who understands his or her redemption will never slip again into slavery to death through practices of selfish unrighteousness. Our faith, our gratitude, and our respect for the market price God willingly paid for our salvation, motivates us to tireless service as willing slaves to Jesus dwelling in God’s house now and forever more.