

# 1 Peter 1:18

by John Gill

---

*The price of redemption is not corruptible, and those who have been redeemed by a greater price than gold and silver are servants of God and Christ, not bound by the traditions of the elders.*

**Scripture:** Exodus 30:12, Job 19:25, Matthew 15:3, Galatians 1:14, 1 Peter 1:18-19

**Topics:** "Redemption", "The Value of the Soul"

---

## Description

John Gill emphasizes the profound nature of redemption in his sermon on 1 Peter 1:18, explaining that believers are not redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold, but through the precious blood of Christ. He highlights that the soul's worth far exceeds material wealth, and true redemption liberates individuals from sin, the law's curse, and spiritual bondage. Gill also critiques the vain traditions passed down from ancestors, particularly within Judaism, which cannot lead to true righteousness or salvation. Instead, he calls for believers to serve God and Christ, rejecting the empty practices of their forefathers. The sermon ultimately underscores the significance of Christ's sacrifice as the ultimate price for redemption.

---

## Transcript

Ver. 18. Forasmuch as ye know,.... From the Scriptures of truth, by the testimony of the Spirit, by his work upon the soul, and by the application of the benefits of redemption, such as justification, pardon, adoption, and sanctification; see Job 19:25,

that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold. The redemption of a soul, which is of more worth than a world, requires a greater price than gold and silver; and those who have the largest share thereof, can neither redeem their own souls with it, nor the souls of others. The soul is immortal and incorruptible, but these are corruptible things, which may be cankered, or wear away, and perish by using; and therefore, seeing redemption is not obtained by anything corruptible, nothing corrupt in principle, or practice should be indulged. The allusion is to the redemption of the people of Israel, and of the firstborn, by shekels, Ex 30:12. Gold and silver do not mean pieces of gold and silver, but gold and silver coined; for only by such could redemption of anything be obtained {d} but these are insufficient for the redemption of the soul; which is a deliverance from the slavery of sin, the bondage, curse, and condemnation of the law, the captivity of Satan, and from a state of poverty, having been deep in debt, and sold under sin. It here follows,

from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; meaning not the corruption of nature, which is propagated from father to son by natural generation, and lies in the vanity of the mind, and is the spring and source of an evil conversation; though the saints, as they are redeemed from all sin, so from this, that it shall not be their condemnation; not Gentilism, which lay in vain philosophy, in idolatry and superstition, and in evil and wicked conversation, encouraged by the example of their ancestors; but Judaism, and either regards the ceremonial law, which was delivered by Moses to the Jewish fathers, and by them handed down to their posterity; and which was vain, as used and abused by them, and was unprofitable to obtain righteousness, life, and salvation by, and therefore was disannulled by Christ, who has redeemed and delivered his people from this yoke of bondage; or rather the traditions of the elders, which our Lord inveighs against, Mt 15:3 &c. and the Apostle Paul was brought up in, and zealous of, before conversion, Ga 1:14 as the Pharisees were. These were the inventions and decrees of them they called twba, "fathers", to whose dogmas and decisions they paid the utmost respect. These made up their oral law, which the Jews say {e} Moses received from Sinai, and delivered to Joshua; and Joshua to the elders; and the elders to the prophets; and the prophets to the men of the great synagogue, the last of which was Simeon the just; and from him it was delivered to another; and so from one to another to the times of Christ and his apostles and afterwards; and which consisted of many vain, useless, and unprofitable things; to walk according to which must be a vain conversation; and the saints now being redeemed by a greater price than that of silver and gold, and which is after mentioned, they ought not therefore to be the servants of men, no, not of these fathers, but of God and Christ.

{d} Maimon. & Bartenora in Misn. Beracot, c. 7. sect. 1. {e} Pirke Abot, c. 1. sect. 1, 2, &c.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-gill/1-peter-118/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**