

Happy Mother's Day! I am so glad that we have the opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day today and worship the Lord in spirit and in truth such that we are not limited to a specific space to do so. Mothers, you are pretty amazing. I mean, who else can survive the kinds of chaos that little bodies can produce? Who else doesn't mind hearing their name called out a million times an hour by a creature that you would kill for, but at times also drives you mildly insane? Who else will wipe noses with their bare hands? Who else can go through excruciating physical pain for hours over someone, and then be madly in love with them and can instantly transform into a Special Forces Black Ops soldier to protect them? Moms you truly are amazing! Thank you for the gift of life.

Our text this morning fits the heart of our concern for honoring those to whom honor is do. In this case we will be studying the call to honor Jesus Christ, and God the Father, for the provision and cost of salvation. The unselfish sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the gracious gift of God is a true and amazing example of grace. Though we all are broken and fall short, moms who honor the gifting that God has given them reflect this gracious light of God in this world.

What I want to do this morning is to study this passage before us and then make some application points specific to our day of Mother's Day today.

We began this series of studies by asking some questions that the text seemed to naturally raise. We began with asking about our thinking and moved to consider our actions: "what are you thinking?" and "what are you doing?" Today, again, I want to ask the question, what are you valuing? Peter leads us there when he compares the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to silver and gold and to inheritance of ideas and culture. Jesus is more. So let's dive in and see how this comes out of the text.

.III. What are you Valuing? In these verses we see that the motivation for heeding Peter's **exhortation** to sober-mindedness, **verse 13**, and conformity to holiness, **verses 14** through **17**, is **twofold**. **First**, Peter highlights the **fear of the Lord** as a motivator for holiness in our lives, and **secondly**, Peter highlights the **cost to the Lord** as a motivator for holiness in our lives. As we prepare to consider the fear of the Lord, we note that Peter highlights **two aspects that motivate the fear for the Lord**. The **first motivation is Fatherhood**. How value plays into this is, again, that Peter leads us to compares the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to silver and gold, and to inheritance of ideas and culture. The conclusion is that Jesus is more. But beyond that we could think about it like this: if I really don't care what God thinks, does, and will do, I will not change my behavior. **So, if I value God too lightly, and I value Christ's work on the cross as nothing consequential in my life, then I will not be motivated to change my behavior.**

The **first step** in really appreciating Peter's exhortation, then, is to ask the question of whether or not I am even trading in the same currency. By that I mean, we need to **ask if we are Christians or not**. The reason that this is an important question is because we will not be compelled by affection if there is no personal and deep relationship. How does Jesus talk about His mission to this world? **"For God so loved the world that He gave."** (John 3:16a) His love for mankind compelled Him. When parents ask us something, we respond out of love. When children have needs, parents are compelled out of love to meet those needs. If there is no inherent affection because of a deep relationship, it is hard to be motivated to be sacrificial. This is what makes the gospel so unique. There was no love and affection from us towards God that compelled Him to send His Son. There was no affection towards Jesus that caused the world to immediately seek His presence. He was persecuted as an infant. He was rejected by His own family, and ultimately, He was wrongfully killed in a brutal way. We did not want Jesus, but His love of God and His love of man compelled Him. Jesus is the perfect example of the fulfillment of the Greatest Commandments, to love God with all of our being, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. If you are truly a Christian, then the consideration of Peter's exhortation is not only encouraged, it is necessary.

This is the sense of the passage in **verse 17**. The Greek, as very nicely clarified by **Edmond Hiebert**, really implies a translation of, **"since you call on him as Father."** We have a different responsibility to God since we are His sons and

daughters. It has grown beyond a relationship of hostility that we had with God before salvation ([Colossians 1:21](#); [Ephesians 2:14](#)). **Peter is exhorting family members to faithfulness.** Are you truly a Christian? One way to discern that is to assess your response to the exhortation. A family member is by nature a lover of God in Christ. A family member will obey, or be convicted to obey if they struggle, the direction of God because of that love. It certainly stands as a good example for families. We as parents need to set the example of sacrifice and affection. Those under our care display their affection by being obedient. Peter details responsibilities in the home later in this epistle. Right now, he is focusing upon the making sure we are in good order with God, and then we can be in good order with man.

We are to fear the Lord. **Two reasons are given for fearing the Lord. First,** He is our **Father.** We mused on that a moment ago. **Second,** He is **impartial in His judgment.** We fear the Lord because He is perfect in justice. One of the greatest problems in Evangelical Christianity is the thought that grace is license to sin. I am forgiven. I will be forgiven, so I can do these things that my heart desires here on this earth because Jesus Christ has set me free to do them. It's really twisted theology. Grace doesn't give me license to sin. It gives me the power to finally live as we were called to live, in growing hatred for those things which demanded the death of Christ to set me free — in growing disdain for sin in our lives and the world around us. This is the whole issue that Paul attacks in [Romans 6](#). What that thinking of license to do what we want ignores is that God will sanctify us. God will bring into our lives that which will turn us towards Him. God as Father will discipline His children. Hebrews 12 talks about that. James 1 considers these things as well. Further, [1 Corinthians 3](#) tells us that our works here on this earth will be tested by God to see if they are worthy of heaven.

Let's just take a tour of God the Father's impartial justice upon His children for the purpose of sanctification. Adam and Eve, believers in God and the only people who knew what it was like to be perfect and then fallen, are thrust out of the garden and cursed while on this earth. Noah gets drunk and his son Ham falls into sin. Ham should have known better, but Noah should have too. Trace the family problems God's people had who were in polygamous relationships; Abraham, Jacob, David, Solomon. What disastrous issues did Lot face because of his sin? Eli, Jonah, Ananias and Sapphira, the church of Corinth, the church of Ephesus, the church of Pergamum, the church of Thyatira, the church of Sardis, the church of Laodicea, all these were under the judicial eye of God the Father, and His discipline was felt.

Are you walking in the fear of the Lord, Christians? The Psalmist says in [Psalm 130](#), **"If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?"** The sheer fact that we can be forgiven shows the mercy of God, but let the Christian beware. Our Father is not some bewildered and spent Father who can be manipulated with a tantrum or exhausted into inaction. Do not be deceived, says the word to each and every one of us. God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. Don't deceive yourself into thinking that your Christian life is a "keep God at my demands" card. If as a Christian your heart grows with a sense of fear that your Father is just, you will do what God's people have quickly done since the beginning of time. You will be reaching for mercy.

Yet in regard to the fear of God I must also include this. Where God's judgment of His children is in the vein of loving discipline, for the unbeliever, God's judgment is of righteous judge. Romans tells us that the wrath of God is revealed upon man for all the unrighteousness that is present in this world. Romans tells us that people are experiencing wrath now and that it is His mercy for the sake of an opportunity to repent that He does not vent His full wrath against sin. If you are not a believer, I beg you, repent of your sin so that you may experience the loving care of a Father whose discipline is always meant to lead us further into our transformation as Christians.

We are motivated to fear the Lord because God is our Father and we value Him, and we value the truth that reminds us of His impartiality.

Secondly, we are **motivated by considering Christ's sacrifice**. I am now considering **verses 18-19**. There we are told that our salvation meant that we were ransomed, and that the cost of our ransom was the death of Christ. Peter expands this with some theological conclusions. He tells us that we were ransomed from futile ways inherited from our forefathers. Some translations use the word "redeem." But there is some more specificity taking place here. Peter is making a contrast between the thinking and living that is contrary to the ways of God that were normal life before God opened our eyes. There is a lot of false thinking that is just part of our culture. Peter is using the word "ransom" very specifically, and to give us another aspect of perspective that is necessary in understanding all the parts of salvation.

Ransom is a term for those being held against their will for whom the only means of deliverance is to offer something of value. **Karen Jobes** is very helpful on this verse. She notes, "The verb translated 'redeemed' (lytroo) and its cognate noun (lytron) were used in Greco-Roman culture to refer to the manumission of a slave. The slave would receive his or her freedom after depositing money in the temple of a god or goddess, money which would then be paid via the temple's treasury (minus a commission) to the slave's owner with the thought that the god or goddess was buying the slave (Deissmann 1927: 318-34). The former slave would then be free in the eyes of his former owner and society but would be considered a slave of the god or goddess. The sum of money paid for the redemption was referred to as the [TimEE] (time, price), and the slave was considered to have been redeemed by the deity." (Karen Jobes (Grand Rapids, Baker Academic: 2005), 116-17) (Greek references copied as phonetic in this document. Jobe's usage include the Greek and common Greek transliteration) Paul directs our thoughts this way when he says, you are not you won, you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

How do you assess the sacrifice of Christ? Was it simply tragic, or do you really see what it is, the means of your freedom from the chains of sinful thinking and sinful actions? The Greek front loads all this from which we are ransomed to bring emphasis to the work of grace, and to the life we had. We really should be different.

But let's apply this to our special day. We cannot truly honor our mothers unless we properly assess their sacrifice. Moms, it may take time before this is even understood. There are some experiences in life that you can only live through to comprehend intellectually, emotionally, and physically, everything that experience produced on you. Be patient and know that even if your kids never see it, there is a Father who is impartial. He will not forget about your sacrifice.

Further, God the Father shows grace in discipline, but it doesn't deter discipline. A parent who does not discipline their child does not love their child. There are many forms of discipline, but as we consider our text, the discipline that God brings upon our lives is because of injustice and for our betterment. Do you love your child enough to be engaged in seeking their character development?

Motherhood is an incredible task. It seems impossible at times, or all the time. But in Christ your service in this calling will not be forgotten, it will not only bear fruit, but God who is impartial will make sure that your sacrifice, though it often is overlooked, will be brought to light. Thank you for staying true to your calling. Amen.