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REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

by A. Alexander MacRae

Scripture reading -- 1 Peter 1.

Text -- 1 Peter 1.19

In the passage from which our text is drawn, the Apostle Peter is giving instructions regarding the practical conduct of life. After stressing the great importance of holy living, he gives motives for this duty, reaching a climax in verses 18 and 19: *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

The blood of Christ -- Here indeed we have touched the very heart of the Gospel, and its deepest mystery. We are on holy ground. The subject seems almost too sacred for discussion. Yet it must not be passed over. Even though we scarcely dare speak of it, save with bated breath and hushed voice, yet we must consider the subject. For it is one of the most frequent and most prominent subjects in the entire Word of God.

First, let us consider the place of blood in human life. Every one of us has blood coursing through his veins. Upon this blood we are dependent for our life. The quality of our blood determines the character of our health. Yet we have an instinctive aversion to the thought of blood. It carries us beneath the surface to the consideration of the elemental facts of our existence. It suggests disruption, suffering, death.