

very great importance of redemption ~~of~~ in the life of every Christian.

1 Pet. 1:18-21 is, I think a very outstanding passage in this regard:

"For as much 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, who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who by Him do believe in God who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory that your faith and hope might be in God." The very foundation of our Christian life and Christian~~y~~ thought.

1 Cor. 15:17 is not quite as clear in this direction, but it is a very strong statement. ^{And} ~~But~~ if Christ be not raised your faith is vain, ye are ~~yet~~ in your sin." I have occasionally had the experience ~~of~~ of going to a church and hearing a sermon which has impressed me as being full of marvellous truth about the Christian life, and presenting a great deal of material that was very vital for the Christian, but in which there was absolutely no recognition of the fact that all of these values belong only to the one who has already had the passover experience, the one who has ^{made} already ~~had~~ his exodus from Egypt, the one who has already been redeemed through the blood of Christ. And sometimes when I have heard sermons like that from men who have had a modernists^{ic} background, or who are in a church where there seems to be no outstanding ^{definite} Christian witness, I just wonder whether the sermon is actually bringing any good to the people who are listening, whether they are building without the foundation on which the building is necessary. And therefore it will not stand at all, and whether he himself in most cases where I have heard a sermon like this it's been a man who has had a real Christian background sometime earlier ~~like~~ like ----- but if he has lost his faith in the central foundation^{al} of the teaching of Christian^{ity}, he can have beautiful teachings and wonderful ideas which can mean much to those who already have this foundation. but apart from the foundation they are absolutely useless. Sometimes I feel as if there is a question in my mind