

# First Fruits

By Steve Pruitt

*...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJV

Firsts have always been important to God. In the Old Testament we read of several feasts which God commanded the nation of Israel to observe. One of those feasts was the Feast of Harvest. It was also known as the Feast of Weeks and Day of First Fruits. Later the early church referred to it as Pentecost because it occurred fifty days after Passover. During the feast Israel was to offer the first fruits of their wheat harvest as a free will offering to the Lord (Exodus 23:16; 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10).

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the churches he helped to establish, refers to the early converts as first fruits of his labor (1 Corinthians 16:15; Romans 16:5). James portrayed all believers as first fruits when he wrote, *Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.* (James 1:18) Once a person allows the redeeming work of the blood of Jesus to take affect in his life he becomes a first fruit of Christ's labor.

The Greek word for redeemed used in 1 Peter 1:18 means "to go to market, purchase, or buy." Everyone is born with a sinful nature that is against the laws of God. All have sinned and fall short of his glory. The only way one can be redeemed is by the blood of the slain Lamb.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth (the market place if you will), lived a sinless life, died a sinner's death, took our sins upon him and with his blood purchased or redeemed our souls for the Father.

The first step to becoming a true worshiper is to acknowledge Jesus' work on the cross for the forgiveness of sin, consent to his Lordship and allow him to take possession of our life.

As Christians our lives are not our own, we have been bought at a price. We have been redeemed from among men and are first fruits to God. The Greek word for first fruits used in the New Testament means "a beginning of sacrifice." A sacrificial life is characteristic of those who have been redeemed and have becomes first fruits to God. Only those who practice sacrificial living become true worshipers.

Have you been redeemed by the blood of Jesus? Is your life "a beginning of sacrifice?" Ask the Father to show you what it means to be a first fruit and submit to his Lordship.

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## **Scriptures for meditation:**

Galatians 3:13

Romans 12:1

Revelation 14:4

Romans 8:23