

REDEMPTION—Deliverance by sacrifice

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“In present religious usage, Redemption refers primarily to God’s saving activity, especially as manifested in the work of Christ. In the Old Testament redemption is primarily from physical bondage or peril; but this is far from being divorced from an element of Spiritual Well-being. The theme of the divine initiative in the redemption of Israel informs the whole of Old Testament literature.

“Jesus may properly be spoken of as the Redeemer inasmuch as He has done for man what man could not do for himself by giving His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). He has released those who obey Him from the guilt and power of sin.” (Ref. The Layman’s Bible Encyclopedia pp 679-680).

This will be a “Study-lesson” on redemption and will be of great value in our learning (knowledge) of the blessing we receive in preparing to do His will and in teaching others. It is a lesson in which we must teach, and in order to teach we must know what and be able to teach of the great work of Jesus while He was here on earth.

There are three areas to be outlined for study in this lesson... they are:

- I. Redemption, the Blessing of Deliverance
- II. Redemption, Benefits of
- III. Redemption. Accomplished by

I. REDEMPTION—THE BLESSING OF DELIVERANCE

A. Redemption as deliverance by sacrifice. *“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made, (having become) a curse for us: for it is written, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGED ON A TREE”* (Galatians 3:13). See also the law cited in Deuteronomy 21:22-23, which is the law of public display of executed criminals. Stoning was the approved way of execution and hanging was imposed as an additional disgrace (John 19:31). It was considered to be a curse, thus *“by becoming accursed for us”* Christ was nailed, hung on the cross, for us. Better said, ALL MANKIND is afforded the blessing through obedience to Jesus as He was obedient to His Father. You can say because of Christ’s sacrifice for sin God shows mercy to sinners. Christ is our propitiation.

B. Redemption as deliverance from the bondage of the Law. Please read with me Galatians 4:4-5 to see and know *“...when (Genesis 3:15) the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made (John 1:14) of (Genesis 3:15) a woman, made (born) (Luke 2:21, 27) under the law to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons”* (John 1:12)

All that Christ suffered, stress and humiliation, was the blessing for believers to receive, to become, God’s sons by adoption. Yes, through Christ believers have the greatest of blessings, and only His obedient sons (children) will be saved. (Cf. I Timothy 2:5).

C. Redemption as deliverance from iniquity. Terrible is the definition of iniquity. It is correct to use any one of several synonyms such as: lawlessness, wickedness, unrighteousness, and even the idea of, contempt of Divine law, since the Antichrist will deny the existence of God. How sinful! Can you imagine humankind that manifest such a nature or thinking that way? Do we know people who deny God?

Read this with me: *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passion and to live in the present, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you”* (Titus 2:11-15, ESV- English Standard Version).

For emphasis to the instructions of the cited verses we could remark that the verses set forth the basis of obedience to the Christian life. It is based on God's grace that has provided salvation universally for all mankind through atonement of Christ, (See Romans 3:24-25). PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

D. Redemption as deliverance from destruction. Who does not desire safety and preservation? Who does not desire, find and celebrate (giving of thanks or praise) for preservation of their soul?

“Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul; and forget not His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who forgets who redeems your life from the pit (death), who crowns you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's” (Psalm 103:1-5). How many blessings can be recognized and realized because they can be yours, from those five verses? They are of strength, swiftness—so make haste, take freely while you can! There is redemption—realize the grace of God and Jesus on the cross. There is renewal—yours every hour and don't forget. And there is realization—the need to give thanks and praise to the source of all blessings—God Almighty the LORD of Heaven and earth. If you will, please go ahead and read the rest of Psalm 103, verses 6-22. You will find continued strength in HIS blessings.

E. Redemption as deliverance from aimless conduct. What is meant by aimless conduct and being delivered from such? Let's answer it this way, “It is conduct by which we were set free from the sinful life that has no purpose and leads to nothing good.” With that answer in mind let's go ahead and pose the question, “Why would a man or woman lead such a life as to having no purpose?” It does not make sense, does it? It for sure has no wisdom in it! Is there any doubt about that, is there?

We know that by studying God's word, we can gain knowledge. We can learn that conducting ourselves with godly reverence is the way to live. All Christians, true children of God, have been released (delivered) from empty and meaningless lives by the payment made on our behalf by Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

“Know 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) (cf. Psalm 49:7-8; 130: 7-8; Ephesians 4:17; 2 Peter 2:1). Our conduct is the results of our thinking manifested in our actions. Does that remind you of a Biblical Proverb? You answered, Proverb 23:7—you are correct!

F. Redemption as deliverance from the present evil world (age). “Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Galatians 1:3-5).

Paul gave this as a greeting and reminder to the Church at Galatia. Inspired words! Yes! Did it have a purpose? You know it did. Reminders, reviews, encouragement and “laying it on the line” are good and necessary. In verse 6 Paul begins to admonishing the Church at Galatia about their “turning away” so soon from Him who called. We too were redeemed and delivered by sacrifice by the same Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And yes, we too must follow the truth and we must make urgent appeals among ourselves and avoid the present evil world (age). It is a blessing to be warned and revived, and making the proper response and receive forgiveness of our sins. It is good and of great benefit which by-the-way is our next topical section of this study.

II. REDEMPTION, BENEFITS OF

A. Redemption benefits of forgiveness. *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of His (God’s) grace”* (Ephesians 1:7). Because we have received forgiveness of sin, we now have redemption from the power and guilt of sin, thus the riches of God’s grace are enough to save us all from sin. God has forgiven Christians, His children; we also ought to be forgiving in our attitudes toward others (cf. Matthew 6:14-15).

God makes everything of the blood of Christ: We are redeemed by Christ’s blood (Ephesians 1:7); Justified by His blood (Romans 5:9); purged as to conscience by His blood (Colossians 1:14); cleansed by His blood (Revelation 7:14); having peace through His blood (Colossians 1:20); enter the Holiest by His blood (Hebrews 10:19).

B. Redemption benefits of justification. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24). Anyone who comes to God and trusts Him for salvation will be justified, “...and he believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness” (Genesis 15:6). This was spoken of Abram, (See also Romans 4:18).

C. Redemption benefits of adoption. Please read this with me. *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise”* (Galatians 3:28-29). *“I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God”* (Galatians 4:1-6).

Paul had written to the churches (plural) in Galatia who taught that Christians must keep the Old Testament law in order to be accepted by God. Paul taught them that Christ

came to redeem them from sin and from vain attempts to earn God's favor by keeping the law. Paul said this to them, *"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Christ came to save and to make all of us God's children by adoption.* For other scriptures on adoption see (Romans 2:15, 23; 9:4; Ephesians 1:5).

D. Redemption benefits of being God's possession. "For you were bought at a price; Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). "You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men" (1 Corinthians 7:23). Are possessions valued by the price one pays for them? What is the value of possessions for which we have the stewardship responsibility? And realize, they don't belong to us in the first place, actually they belong to God, and HE only loaned them to us! Why does that complicate duty relationships so much? Some people even get your seat at "Church" sometimes, don't they?

When we get serious in thinking and evaluating our responsibilities there is more to reckon with than a momentary thought. If you should be challenged to do so, do an in-depth study on the word/principle of "reckon/reckoning." It will take you places and you can learn things which it could be that you haven't thought of lately, i.e. [metaphorically, by reckoning of characteristics or reason to take into account], Vines p. 930. I reckon so, but you know, I never thought of that! That is what I said; I'm talking to "Bill"!

E. Redemption benefits of God's people. Here are some of the words spoken by a man sent from God and was speaking about Jesus Christ. He called Him the "Word" saying, *"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God"* (John 1:11-12).

It is noted that those who received Christ through obedience and did so by hearing God's Word. (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:23), believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6), repented of passed sins. (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30), confessed Christ as the Son of God. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37), were baptized (immersed) into Christ for remission (forgiveness) of past sins, (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; and Romans 6:3-4). NOTE: after obedience to the above five steps, you are added to His church (Acts 2:47), then live faithfully unto death and He will give you the crown of life (1 Peter 2:11-12; Revelation 2:10). True believers and all who are born of the will of God are recipients of blessed benefits. That is a "plate-full", yes it is, but it is beautiful, it is God's will. It is required that each of us live it and teach it, and take someone with you; it is the only way to get to Heaven!

F. Redemption benefits of "sealing". ALL of God's word is good for man even chastising words. We must know, realize, and be reminded or refreshed of this great benefit and yes regularly. That's some of the reasoning for daily Bible reading/study. Our words and acts sometimes are grievous. *"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption"* (Ephesians 4:30).

This scripture is in the section of the Bible where Paul's admonishment is speaking to walking in unity and putting off the old man. Christians must put off the habits and actions developed and formed in the old man. That is the will of God. Walking in unity of the Holy Spirit of God, not walking or ignoring the Spirit will cause Him to grieve and, it makes one's seal null and void. It is serious dear one.

You who are sealed by the Holy Spirit have the assurance of final salvation. It can be said that we who have been sealed that it is the mark of ownership by God. See also

(Isaiah 63:10; John 3:33; Romans 4:11; Ephesians 1:13, 14, 17; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 7:13; 2 Timothy 2:19). The devil has his angel...workers of iniquity, seal breakers, we could say. It is those who travel the broad and wide way of life. It is those who are lawless, transgressors, unrighteous, wicked, evildoers, living and telling lies, and all who violate God's will and grieve the Holy Spirit of God.

G. Redemption benefits of inheritance. "...*He (Jesus) is the Mediator of the new covenant*" (Hebrews 9:15). By the death of Jesus on the cross He became the Mediator of a new arrangement between God and man through which we come to God. His death provided redemption from transgressions which separated us from God. This redemption *new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance*" (Hebrews is effective retroactively for the people who were faithful to the old law. (cf. Hebrews 11:39-40; 11:2, 13; 5:9). It is also God's plan for those who are called, His faithful followers today. How are we called? The answer is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:14. It is the gospel. Why are we called? The answer is, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

H. Redemption benefits of Heaven's glory. This section of study should be most motivating to all of us. I am hoping that it can be seen or evaluated in that light. To paint the mind/heart picture of Heaven's glory there are 17 expressions of descriptive word or group of words used, with scriptures referenced which identify the splendor/grandeur and benefits of Heaven to believers. Oh my, what a beautiful picture that Heaven's glory displays in the inspired words of the scripture.

You need your Bible to be opened in readiness to read the cited scriptures in order to view the beauty of the pictures revealed in the sacred word.

THE BENEFIT OF HEAVEN AND HOW GREAT IT WILL BE TO BELIEVERS

1. Absence of death (Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 15:54; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 21:4)
2. Christlikeness (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 John 3:20-21)
3. Complete moral purity (Philippians 3:20-21)
4. Complete perfection (Revelation 22:3)
5. Divine sustenance (Luke 14:15; 22:29-30; Revelation 2:17)
6. Drinking of the water of Life (Revelation 21:6; 22:1-2)
7. Eating from the Tree of Life (Revelation 2:7)
8. A Glorified Body (2 Corinthians 5:1-5)
9. Immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 2:11)
10. Intimate fellowship with God and Christ (Isaiah 60:19-20; John 12:26; 14:3; 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelations 3:4-5, 12; 9-6)
11. Joyfulness (Psalm 16:11; Isaiah 35:10; Revelation 21:4)
12. Perfect knowledge (1 Corinthians 13:12)
13. Physical well-being ((Isaiah 33:24; Revelation 21:4)
14. Salvation (1 Peter 3-5, 8-9)
15. Satisfaction of ALL needs (Revelation 7:16-17)

16. Sharing in Christ's Glory (Matthew 13:40-41, 43; Romans 8:17; Colossians 3:4; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Peter 5:10)

17. Sinlessness (Ephesians 1:4, 9-10)

Heaven is worth it ALL. We sing a song with those words used in it and it has many other descriptive words in it also. All of Heaven's benefits are not named herein or in the song, but we should study and reflect in our thoughts the great and wonderful beauty of Heaven in our life daily. ALL Praise to Him Who Reigns Above!

There is much that can be said about complete understanding and realization of death as we think about it coming to us individually. We enjoy talking about Heaven and the treasures which are awaiting us there. And yes, there is a proviso involved which is conditional or stipulations that must be manifested for proof while we are physical here on earth. Prayerfully I say that the proviso(s) are favorably met by all and will result in the a blessing of Grace from the God of Heaven who provides us the terms and conditions which we will be blessed if we effectively execute them by our mind and body while here in this present life.

As we have studied the 17 beautiful benefits we should have noted that some were highlighted by use of metaphoric terms; a figure of speech containing an implied comparison, in which a word or phrase ordinarily and primarily used of one thing is applied to another. My thought is that it's a great way for my mind to picture many examples which I have enjoyed in my life. There are many metaphors in the Bible. I'm thinking of an outline which I have. It's a study of "The Facts of Death" and there are 41 metaphors that depict death and the subsequent state and each are supported by one or more Scriptures. Example: *"He coneth forth also as a shadow, and continues not."* Interesting, don't you think? I'll move on by saying that I love Him who sustains life. I love the One who can and will call me home someday! I'm waiting and loving it!

III. REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED BY

A. Redemption benefits are accomplished by God's power. God's power is spoken of in the very first verse of the Bible. Who can deny that? Unless they deny the existence of the Living God, they cannot. Woe unto the man who denies God!

God's power is spoken thusly, *"...because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage..."* (See also Luke 1:55, 72-73). There should be no doubt in our hearts...God does love us! Because God loves His people, His children, we must follow Him with trust in our hearts that He is faithful to His promise. We too are obligated to keep His word active and diligently in our service to Him. I know no other way that we can bear fruit. Why are we obligated? He has commanded us, and if we love Him we will keep His commandments (John 14:15). The diligence to this love is manifested by abiding in Him (1 John 2:27).

B. Redemption benefits accomplished by Christ's blood. *"In Him (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence"* (Ephesians 1:7-8). Repeating, because I used it earlier, we have receive forgiveness of sins, we now also have redemption from the power and guilt of sin. If you think about it, and please do, it is a heavy burden (load) lifted from the mind, body and soul when we are by forgiveness able to be relieved from the power of guilt. The riches of God's grace are enough to save us from all sin. That a song we should sing over and over!

C. Redemption was accomplished by God's grace. The song is repeated yea again, read it and say, "*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people*" (Titus 2:11). Salvation is the end result of redemption. What is redemption? Go back to page one, first paragraph, first line. There we said that it is God's work. The way God works, in this instance, or any of His love actions is His business and are for the benefit of man and all His creation. Redemption, the product of God's grace is to us the cause to "*declare that this is the true grace of God and stand firm in it*" (1 Peter 5:12).

The children of God can and must stand firm and declare the glory of God and because of His love and grace, pronounce this to the whole world, yea more diligently.

The scriptures and commentary that have been set forth in this study have been of great benefit to me. The wonderful scriptures and principles that we studied together have been motivating to my conscience. It is my prayer that you have read and studied this lesson and that you will accept all truth herein and that it will be a conscience server to you also. Accepting truth and acting responsibly is truly a great blessing.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love to which we expose or submit our mind. With confidence I say that you studied this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be of great benefit to you.

With confidence I also say, that you desire to be blessed and to gain more knowledge. True abiding biblical knowledge is associated with responsibilities. In faith and love please seek and search diligently for responsible knowledge. It is found, in the study of God's word, the truth. Please accept it as your duty—your obligation. Your duty must be associated with and become an active part of your abiding faithfully in the Lord's Church until death.

The church that I am speaking of is [the church you read about in the Bible. The cost was the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church is His Body, His Kingdom, which is His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church of the Bible. You cannot pass through Heaven's gate if you are not in Christ's' Body, His Church. It surely is the Church, the only Church that you read about in the Bible. That is the truth. Note more of what is said in the Bible about truth and the church

"Buy the truth, and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23). Do not compromise the truth. Where the Bible speaks definitively on a subject, we must be firm in our resolve concerning that truth. The Bible speaks clearly as to the number of churches having a scriptural right to exist. ONE! Jesus promised to build His church, not "Churches" (Matthew 16:18). On the day of Pentecost, the saved were added to the church (Acts 2:47). Paul said there is one body (Ephesians 4:4). Earlier in the same epistle Paul equated that body with the church (Ephesians 1:23). Later, Paul uses 12 nouns and pronouns to describe the church—all of them singular (Ephesians 5:23-32). This settles the matter of how many churches Jesus built and how many existed in the New Testament.

We must not be ashamed to say what the Bible says on this subject (Mark 8:38). Let us all prepare ourselves to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11). Anything less is to do God and His word a terrible injustice. It's all true! It's it good to know about heaven.

Please study "biblical-truth" with an honest and receptive heart to gain truth and knowledge. Please accept the truth and become obedience, and walk with the LORD. You will be blessed! Heaven will be your home. God bless you for studying with me on this great subject. God loves you...and I do too! Your servant in the Lord...Bill Richardson, Member, Hartselle Church of Christ