

REDEEMED

The story of redemption is the sweetest, yet most horrifying tale we find in the Bible. It is the centerpiece of every believer's faith, for without God's great grace and Christ's redeeming love, we could have no part of Him. Praise God we are redeemed.

Whether you grew up singing Fannie Crosby's, "Redeemed, How I Love To Proclaim It", or are as thrilled as I am by Big Daddy Weave's, "Redeemed," the artistry of lyric and music, no matter how much our soul may appreciate it, can never fully capture what we have actually received from the Lord Jesus Christ. Neither will today's lesson, but my prayer is that it will give a reminder, as the Apostle Peter in his letter to these sojourners of the faith takes the opportunity to remind them, that whatever they may be going through because of their faith in Christ, it's worth every bit of it. He reminds them of their redemption in the precious blood of Christ.

Read 1 Peter 1:17-19

Yesterday we looked at the fact that we have a heavenly Father who is holy, and is going to impartially judge the works He ordained for us to do while we are here on earth, so we need to "conduct [ourselves] in fear during our stay." In the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, it encourages us by saying that for the believer, this fear "*excludes the fear of punishment...*"

As we harmonize with other scriptures, we can know that the type of fear we are to have toward our Father is a reverential awe rather than terror. Let's take a look.

Read 1 John 4:16-18. What does it say about perfect love?

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What does it say about the one who "fears" in regards to punishment?

The Theological NT Dictionary goes on to say, "A true relation to God as Author and Father frees us from emotional fear of God." We have the love of a Heavenly Father that removes all the terror as He sent His Son to redeem us and buy us back from the slave market we were in, the slave market of sin. Therefore, "Fear of God takes the form of reverent and submissive recognition in trust and obedience."

Look at Romans 8:1. What assurance do we have if we are in Christ Jesus?

There is now what? " _____ "

When it comes to judgment day, we have the blessed assurance that a Redeemer has paid our debt. There's nothing left to condemn us. When we stand before our Holy God, there will be no surprise debt outstanding. When the accuser rises against us to condemn us, Jesus will simply reply, "it is finished, she is Mine," the full proof of that fact in the palms of His hands and feet, and the scar on His side, pierced.

Look at 1 Peter 1:18-19 and fill in the blanks below:

What weren't we redeemed with? " _____ things like

_____ or _____ "

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Both of those items can depreciate and fluctuate in worth. On any given day it might be worth a lot, while the next day, worthless. The value changes, making it unable to pay the cost.

What were we bought with (v. 19)? "with _____
as of a lamb _____ and _____
the _____ of _____"

This gift will never lose its worth, it will always be sufficient to make the payment necessary, and you'll find, that as we grow to understand the true worth of it in our life, its value will appreciate. His blood becoming more precious to us.

What were we redeemed from, according to the end of v. 18? What kind of life had we inherited?

To fully understand the grace of our God we must first fully understand the gravity of our futile way of life.

The word futile, according to *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, is the word *mátaios*, and it carries the sense of being "vain," "deceptive," "pointless," "futile." "worthless, ineffectual." In other words, what we inherited from our fathers could never provide what it cost to purchase our freedom, in fact, the direct opposite was the case, what we inherited from them was a life of slavery. It was because of our forefathers that we were born with a sin nature, and spiritually dead. But, we can't blame our sin on them, no, because the terminology of the word used shows that we respond to that nature by choosing to sin.

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Read John 8:34 - What does Jesus say about us?

The word "slave" is translated from the Greek word "doulos." We are born enslaved to sin and spiritually dead. It doesn't matter how many good deeds we do, we cannot attain our own spiritual birth, anymore than we could attain our own physical birth. We are a slave to another master, with a price on our head. Our only hope is redemption.

In case we doubt it, read and write what these verses say about sin:

Romans 3:23

I John 1:8, 10

We have a sin problem, and there's only help in One, our Savior Jesus Christ. We must understand that there is nothing we could do to redeem ourselves, or one another. It required a perfect sacrifice. This required Jesus to be born of a virgin in order to bypass the imputed sin of Adam and be born without a sin nature - thus to be like the first Adam when He came into the world. What do I mean by that?

Psalm 51:5 says, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

I Timothy 2:14-15 reads, "And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."

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Dr. Welch explains: *"By harmonizing these two passages we see that the Adamic nature [the nature we receive from Adam] is passed on in the human race by the seed of the man. In speaking of his conception, David indicates that the seed his mother received contained the sin nature. Paul explained to Timothy that it was through the seed of the woman that salvation would come. The phrase "she shall be saved in childbearing" in the Greek text has the definite article before the word 'childbearing.'" This is not a reference to childbearing in general, but "THE childbearing" - a reference to the Virgin Birth. The use of the definite article identifies a specific birth - the birth of Jesus Christ. Because of His virgin birth, Jesus did not receive the imputed sin of Adam. Therefore, He was not born in the slave market like the rest of us. And, He did not commit any personal sin. So, He never became enslaved to sin, but remained a free man. Therefore, He was qualified to purchase at the slave market. No other man could have purchased us from the slave market because Jesus is the only man born outside the slave market and the only one who stayed out of bondage to sin. Adam was created outside the slave market of sin but became enslaved through personal sin.*

We see that King David knew the truth of his need for a redeemer, as he wrote in Psalm 49:7-8:

"No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him
- for the redemption of his soul is costly, and he should cease trying forever."

Our soul is costly, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). No one could pay the ransom except Jesus Christ, who thought we were worth it, and as Mark 10:45, tells us "came to give His life a ransom for many." His own words in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me." He is our redeemer!

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Read the following verses and jot down anything that stands out to you about redemption, or about one who is redeemed:

Romans 3:24-26

Acts 4:10-12

John 8:34-36

Do you want to be free? It was His righteousness that covered the cost of our freedom. Christ's blood being the propitiation, the payment for our sin before the mercy seat of God. He paid our ransom, but we must accept the gift that's so freely offered.

Picture a scale, on one side is all of your sin, piled and weighing down the scale to a lopsided slant. But then, the precious blood of Christ, poured out for you, is placed on the other side. Pure and holy, and it matters not what you have done, only that you have faith in the name of the Lord, and miraculously, the scales are justified. His righteousness in the balance. Giving us birth to a living hope. No longer a slave to sin.

Read Romans 10:9-13 There is one, and only one, thing you must do to be saved, "call on the name of the Lord." If you haven't done that, don't let today pass without recognizing your Redeemer. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.

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Then, live life as the redeemed, conducting yourself in fear during your stay here on earth, for you have been set free! No longer in bondage to the sins before. You can now choose to say, "no" to the temptation that comes your way.

Look at 1 Corinthians 10:13 - He's provided a way of escape so that you may endure it. It's important to note that He doesn't necessarily take the temptation away, but He gives you what you need to endure it with a resounding determination and power to say, "No!"

Whereas a slave could never say no to its master, you have been freed. At some point we must begin to live as a freed man, and stop letting ourselves be enslaved all over again to that which has no real power over us since we are in Christ. If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed! If there is something you need to stop allowing to enslave you, ask the Lord to help you. He's faithful to provide a way of escape.

We'll close today's lesson with one last passage, read Titus 2:11-14.

His grace has appeared, the unblemished and spotless Lamb of God came to redeem an enslaved people, and we became a people for His own possession. We belong to Him now. May we truly be "zealous for good deeds," living to His glory, in the joy of His redemption!

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Review

- Text: 1 Peter 1:17-19
- Conducting ourselves in fear in His perfect love (1 John 4:16-18)
- No condemnation (Romans 8:1)
- Redeemed not with perishable, but imperishable (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- Redeemed from our futile way of life (1 Peter 1:18)
- Jesus says we are slaves to sin (John 8:34)
- Adamic Nature (Psalm 51:5; I Timothy 2:14-15)
- We cannot redeem one another (Psalm 49:7-8)
- Sinners (I John 1:8,10; Romans 3:23)
- Redeemer (Romans 3:24-26; Acts 4:12; John 8:3-36)
- Accepting the Gift (Romans 10:9-10, 13)
- Enduring Temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Glorify God, You are His (Titus 2:14)