



“They sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

Redemption

Central Truth: Christ has purchased the believer’s freedom by giving His life.

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Topic: Redemption: By Blood.

“Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!/Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;/Redeemed thro' His infinite mercy,/His child, and forever, I am.”
With those words Fanny J. Crosby summarized the doctrine of salvation as it relates to the concept of redemption.

Redemption is a cardinal truth of the Christian faith. It permeates all the doctrines of grace, and is chief among them. Redemption means that Jesus has purchased the believer's freedom. What an inspiring thought!

Some form of the word *redeem* is to be found approximately 150 times in the Bible. If God had mentioned it but one time, that would have given it eternal significance. But to mention it so many times shows that it is of greatest importance.

Redeem is used in two applications in the Bible. (1) It may refer to deliverance of a person or group of persons from physical or earthly dangers. (2) It may refer to deliverance from spiritual or eternal dangers. God is said to have redeemed Israel from bondage in Egypt, using *redeem* in the first meaning. He is said to have redeemed us from sin, using *redeem* in the second meaning. Our redemption from sin is the theme of this study.

I. PURCHASE: THE MEANING OF REDEMPTION

There are seven words in the Greek and Hebrew languages which are translated “redeem” in English. Each has a shade of meaning which distinguishes it from the others. (1) Redeem means to release a captive by paying a price, as in I Peter 1:18. (2) Redeem means to purchase, to buyout of the possession of another, as in Galatians 3:13. (3) Redeem means to purchase so as to set free and so occurs 250 times; Psalm 34:22 is typical. (4) Redeem means to rescue, to deliver by swift and effective force, as in Psalm 136:24. (5) Redeem means to separate one from that which held him, as in Psalm 111:9. (6) Redeem means to avenge an act in recovering the one held, as in Genesis 48:16. (7) Redeem means to take possession of upon paying the purchase price, as in Revelation 5:9. What a full and meaningful concept there is in that word redeem.

Every element of those meanings applies when we speak of Jesus redeeming us. He paid a price to buy us out of the possession of the devil. He rescued and delivered us in order to set us free from sin, He separated us from our former master and avenged the offended law of God in the process. He took possession of us when He redeemed us, claiming us as His own dear ones.

Praise the Lord for the doctrine of redemption. Praise the Lord even more for the experience of it in Jesus Christ.

II. BONDAGE: THE NEED FOR REDEMPTION

A. We needed redemption because we were dead in sin. The Bible warns that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). It reports that each person who reaches the age of spiritual responsibility is dead in trespasses and sins (Colossians 2:13) and that salvation comes only by our resurrection to life in Christ (Ephesians 2:1). One who is dead is helpless. We are dependent on God to call and Jesus to save in order to be free.

B. We needed redemption because we were enslaved by the devil. Those who are not trusting Jesus as Savior are children of the devil (John 8:34). They are held by the cords of sin (Proverbs 5:22). Being bondslaves to the devil, who heads the whole kingdom of evil, sinners are unable to rescue themselves. Their only hope is that a power outside themselves will come to their rescue. That is what happened when God came in Jesus Christ to save sinners.

C. We needed redemption because we were unable to redeem ourselves. It would be as easy for a person to change the color of his skin, or a leopard to change the spots of his body, as for a sinner to become a saint by himself (Jeremiah 13:23). *“Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I*

am pure from my sin?” (Proverbs 20:9). Not one of us. We are so helpless in our sins that redemption is our only hope.

III. RANSOM: THE MEANS OF REDEMPTION

A ransom is the price paid to secure the release of a captive. Biblically, it refers to the sacrifice of Jesus by which He paid for our sins. There are three elements to this subject, as it applies to us.

A. Ransom is by a blood sacrifice. Blood has been accepted upon the altar as God's way of making atonement (covering) for the soul (Leviticus 17:11). The blood of the Passover lamb in Egypt secured the protection of the Hebrews from death on that fateful night. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, is the purchase price paid for our salvation (Revelation 5:9). There is no ransom apart from the shedding of blood.

B. Ransom is not by the blood of animals. The Hebrew custom of offering a sacrifice of an animal was not effective in atoning for sin. That was but a reminder of the need for a true ransom and a preparation for the ministry of the one who would truly pay the price for the salvation of sinners (Hebrews 9, 10).

C. Ransom is by the blood of the incarnate Son of God. The blood of Jesus is called “*precious blood*” because He was and is the incarnate Son of God (I Peter 1:18-20). There is salvation in no other because there is no other sacrifice able to pay the ransom for sinners. His sacrifice is sufficient for the whole world (I John 2:1, 2).

IV. FREEDOM: THE RESULT OF REDEMPTION

The Bible says that we have been redeemed from all iniquity, the curse of the law, the bondage of the law, the power of sin, the vain manner of life, bondage, all evil, all trouble, all distress, all adversity, deceit and violence, destruction, death, hell, the hand of the enemy, and our enemies. Think of that! Our redemption brings justification, imparts forgiveness, prepares for the adoption (or son-placing), purifies a people for God's own possession, makes us God's property, enables us to sing the new song of redemption, delivers from fear, and brings joy and a holy walk. What manifold blessings!

A. We are free from the penalty of sin. While the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23). The penalty of death is swallowed up in the gift of life. We are free.

B. We are free from the power of sin. Sin has power to control the life of any person who practices it. One becomes a bonds slave to sin when he

permits it to become his lifestyle (Romans 6:1-11). But Jesus came to free us from the power of sin that we might serve God instead.

C. We will be free from the presence of sin when Jesus returns. He will take us to himself in the Father's house (John 14:3). Caught up in the air to meet Him, we will ever be in the presence of the Lord in the heavenly city where sin never enters (Revelation 21). That is real freedom, and redemption provides it.

V. ETERNITY: THE SCOPE OF REDEMPTION

A. By purchase, our redemption is past. Christ has already redeemed us by the sacrifice of himself (Galatians 3:13). Our immortal spirit entered the glorious redeemed state when we placed personal faith in Jesus.

B. By position, our redemption is present. We have been bought out from this present evil world (Titus 2:12). We are already sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5, 6). We are not in full possession of all that our salvation will bring, but we are in possession of full salvation. Our daily life is being redeemed for God as we live for Him in the present evil world.

C. By prospect, our redemption is future. We do not know the details of what is ahead, but we know from the broad outlines of it in the Bible that it is glorious beyond description. One day our physical bodies will be changed to be like the glorious body of our Savior (Philippians 3:20, 21). We will be like Him (I John 3:1-3). All of that is part of the benefits we receive from the redemptive sufferings of Jesus.

Are we purchased or redeemed? We are redeemed, praise the Lord! Purchase means only a change of masters, as one might purchase a slave who remains a slave. But redemption means a change of condition, where one ceases to be a slave and becomes a free person. So sing to the Lord the song of the redeemed, *“Thou art worthy, . . . for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth”* (Revelation 5:9, 10).

Questions

1. What does redeem mean in its secular usage?
2. What does redeem mean in regard to saving sinners?
3. How is the idea of purchase related to redemption?
4. How is blood sacrifice related to spiritual redemption?
5. What does it mean to be free from the penalty of sin?

6. What does it mean to be free from the power of sin?
7. Under what circumstances will we be free from the presence of sin?
8. In what way is redemption past, present, and yet future?