

Redemption in Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:5-7

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

- I. Redemption is one of the grandest doctrines in the Scriptures.
 - A. It ties together many of the doctrines of the Bible.
 1. Grace v-7
 2. Forgiveness v-7
 - a. Colossians 1:14 (NKJV) 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
 3. Atonement
 - a. Titus 2:14 (NKJV) 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
 - b. Romans 3:24-25 (NKJV) 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
 4. The justice of God
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV) 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 5. Satisfaction for sin
 - a. Acts 20:28 (NKJV) 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
 - b. Revelation 5:9 (NKJV) 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
 6. Substitution

a. Matthew 20:28 (NKJV) 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

B. So many songs have been written about redemption.

1. Redeemed How I Love to Proclaim It
2. There is a Redeemer
3. O for a thousand tongues to sing, My great Redeemer's praise.
4. I Will Sing Of My Redeemer
5. I Know That My Redeemer Liveth
6. Beneath the Cross of Jesus - The wonders of redeeming love
7. What a Wonderful Savior - We are redeemed
8. Under His Wings - He has redeemed me, and I am His Child
9. There is a Place of Quiet Rest - O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
10. There is a Green Hill Far Away - And trust in His redeeming blood
11. Redeemer is one of the favorite names for Jesus in our hymn book.

II. It is grounded, as many doctrines are, in the Old Testament.

A. The right and responsibility of redemption

1. Leviticus 25:25-27 (NKJV) 25 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. 26 Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, 27 then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession.
2. Leviticus 25:47-49 (NKJV) 47 'Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family, 48 after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him; 49 or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself.

B. The redemption of the first born

1. Numbers 18:15 (NKJV) 15 Everything that first opens the womb of all flesh, which they bring to the LORD, whether man or beast, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of man you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem.

C. But there is also the spiritual dimension

1. Exodus 15:13 (NKJV) 13 You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.
2. Deuteronomy 7:8 (NKJV) 8 but 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, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
3. Isaiah 48:20 (NKJV) 20 Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, Declare, proclaim this, Utter it to the end of the earth; Say, "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!"
4. Isaiah 52:9 (NKJV) 9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.

III. It is also one of the most attacked doctrines is the Scripture.

A. Redemption by the blood of Jesus doesn't allow for works for salvation.

1. 1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
2. Now the Catholic Church has divided sin into two divisions.
 - a. Some sins are not taken away by the blood of Jesus but by the person's own works through confession and penitence. i.e. good works.
 - b. No one and nothing can take away sin but the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
 - c. 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV) 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
 - d. A great many people find it extremely difficult to accept Christ's death on the cross as sufficient ransom for their sins. They want to do something themselves. "But I can't see it," said a certain cabinetmaker to a friend who was trying to show him how the death of Christ completed the work of atonement. At last an inspiration struck his friend, who, lifting the plane, moved as if to plane the top of a beautifully polished table that stood near. "Stop!"

cried the cabinetmaker. "Don't you see that's finished? You'll simply ruin it if you use that plane on it," "Why," replied his friend, "that's just what I have been trying to show you about Christ's work of redemption. It was finished when He gave His life for you, and if you try to add to that finished work you can only spoil it. Just accept it as it stands--His life for yours--and you go free."

3. Liberal religions deny the need for a redemption price, that is Jesus' blood.
 - a. They remove blood and replace it with the death of Jesus.
 - b. Some of the newer translations replace the blood of Jesus with the death of Jesus.
 - c. But that is not quite right, for it must be both.
 - d. Heb 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

IV. Few other doctrines can bring the same sort of blessing in the life of the believer.

A. Assurance

1. Accepted in the beloved
2. Sins forgiven
 - a. Re 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
3. God is responsible for your salvation and you will make it.
 - a. Php 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

B. Fellowship with God.

1. 1Jo 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 5 ¶ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

A convict, dying of a loathsome disease in the Arizona State Prison at Florence, was given a New

Testament one day by a visiting prison worker. He started to read it and became so convicted of sin that he hurled it the length of the cell. When the Book landed on the floor, it fell open to the First Epistle of John. A verse boldly outlined in red caught the angry convict's eye. He stooped down to look at it, and this is what he read: "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." That message brought him to his knees, crying out to God for forgiveness, for cleansing, for healing. He became a new man in Christ Jesus. He started a Bible class for the convicts, and in time secured an unconditional pardon from the Governor of Arizona. The governor's pardon freed him from prison, but the pardon the Lord gave brought him purity of spirit, soul, and body, and through him brought many others into the Kingdom.

A little boy about ten years old was once ordered by his father to go and do some work in the field. He went as he was told, but took little pains about it, and made very slow progress in his task. By and by his father called to him very kindly, and said: "Willie, can you tell me how much you have cost me since you have been born?" The father waited a while, and then said that he reckoned he had "cost him a hundred pounds." The boy opened his eyes and wondered at the expense he had been. He seemed to see the hundred sovereigns all glittering before him, and in his heart determined to repay his father by doing all he could to please him. The reproof sank deeper into his heart than a hundred stripes. When I read the story it occurred to me: "What have I cost my Savior?" Then I remembered the words, "Ye are not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet. 1:18, 19).

We are redeemed neither by power, nor truth, but by blood; that is, by the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus. *Charles Hodge, A Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians (New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1858), 41.*

The second New Testament word for "redemption," which helps to make the concept rich, is *exagorazo*. This is the same word as the one we have been studying but with the addition of the prefix *ex*, meaning "out of." *Exagorazo* means "to buy out of the marketplace," with the thought that one thus purchased might never return there again. *James Montgomery Boice, Ephesians: An Expositional Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Ministry Resources Library, 1988), 23.*

So long as we know that the death of the Lord Jesus Christ has accomplished that for us, we will continue to love him and serve him as our "dear Redeemer." *James Montgomery Boice, Ephesians: An Expositional Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Ministry Resources Library, 1988), 24.*