

## DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

### Lesson 14

#### The Redemptive Work of Christ

---

Reading through the Scriptures we discover that all men are sinners. Before coming to Christ they are held captive by Satan to do his will, dead in trespasses and sins. The consequence of sin is the eternal wrath of God poured out on sinners in hell. God's perfect justice demands that the full penalty of sin be paid. This places everyone in the precarious category of those guilty before a holy God. However, God does allow for a willing and approved substitute to pay the penalty of our sin for us. Jesus Christ is that willing substitute. Dying on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of the world. He offers to redeem sinners who are willing to repent of their sin and believe in Him for eternal life. Those who do this are described in the Bible as being "ransomed" or "redeemed." In this lesson we will focus on Christ's great redemptive work on behalf of sinners.

#### I. DEFINITION

- A. John Walvoord: "As used in reference to the death of Christ, redemption has in view the payment of the price demanded by a holy God for the deliverance of the believer from the bondage and burden of sin. This payment results in the sinner being set free from his condemnation and slavery to sin."<sup>1</sup>
  
- B. *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*: "Finding its context in the social, legal, and religious customs of the ancient world, the metaphor of redemption includes the ideas of loosing from a bond, setting free from captivity or slavery, buying back something lost or sold, exchanging something in one's possession for something possessed by another, and ransoming."<sup>2</sup>
  
- C. Leon Morris: "[Redemption has three primary meanings], 1) Men are in a state of slavery to sin, a captivity which man cannot himself break, so that redemption represents the intervention of an outside Person who pays the price which man cannot pay; 2) In the New Testament the payment of price is a necessary component to the idea. Christ has paid the adequate price of our redemption, being an equivalent exchange or substitution; 3) Redemption brings us liberty to obey God, as His slaves, to do His will."<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> John Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord*, pg. 156.

<sup>2</sup> Walter Elwell, gen ed., *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, pg. 664.

<sup>3</sup> Leon Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, pg. 61-62.

- D. The comprehensive theme of redemption is dealt with in 150 texts of Scripture, where a dozen Hebrew and Greek words are used. The term means to deliver by paying a price, to sever from bondage.<sup>4</sup>

## II. THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- A. If all men need redemption, what does this tell us? It tells us that all men are in bondage. All men are slaves. All men must obey a master and it must be a cruel master if God's redemption is required. It means that all men have the sword of God's justice hanging over them by a thread, the bowl of God's wrath ready to be poured out upon their head for all eternity. Yet what a marvel it is that the bulk of humanity has no idea they are slaves. Because their master is invisible they think they are free to do as they please. And as their cruel master leads them on by the leash of lust, they have no idea that the end of life's road is a fiery torment that will never cease. Who will warn them of their bondage? God sends you that your feet may bring glad tidings.
- B. Thomas Watson: "There is but a certain number whom Christ has redeemed. Oh, say sinners, Christ is a redeemer, and we shall be saved by him! Beloved, Christ came not to redeem all, for that would overthrow the decrees of God. Redemption is not as large as creation. I grant there is a sufficiency of merit in Christ's blood to save all; but there is a difference between sufficiency and efficiency. Christ's blood is a sufficient price for all, but it is effectual only to them that believe. A plaster may have a sovereign virtue in it to heal any wound, but it does not heal unless applied to the wound. And if it be so, that all have not the benefit of Christ's redemption, but some only, then it is necessary to ask our own souls the question, *Are we in the number of those that are redeemed by Christ or not?*"<sup>5</sup>

## III. SCRIPTURAL PROOF OF THE REDEMPITIVE WORK OF CHRIST

### A. Prediction of redemption

1. **Duet. 15:15** "You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.

---

<sup>4</sup>W. Evans, & S. M. Coder, *The great doctrines of the Bible*, English. ed.( Chicago: Moody Press, (1998, c1974) 312.

<sup>5</sup> Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pg. 212.

2. **Job 19:25-26** “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. 26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;
3. **Psa. 130:7-8** O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is lovingkindness, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He will redeem Israel From all his iniquities.
4. **Isa. 53:6, 10** All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. . . 10 But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.
5. **Luke 24:21** “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

#### B. Reason we need redemption

1. **Deut. 27:26** ‘Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’
2. **Rom. 7:14** For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.
3. **Gal. 4:3-5** So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
4. **James 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

#### C. Source of Redemption

1. **Luke 1:67-69** And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant—

2. **Mark 10:45** “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
3. **Acts 20:28** “Be on guard for yourselves and for 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.
4. **I Cor. 1:30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
5. **Gal. 3:13-14** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”— 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
6. **Eph. 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
7. **I Pet. 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.
8. **Rev. 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.
9. **Rev. 14:3-4** And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. 4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

D. **Present reality of redemption**

1. **Rom. 3:21-24** But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

2. **I Cor. 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
3. **Eph. 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
4. **Col. 1:13-14** For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
5. **Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
6. **I Pet. 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

#### E. **Future hope of redemption**

1. **Luke 21:25-28** “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 “But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
2. **Rom. 8:23-24** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
3. **Eph. 1:14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

4. **Eph. 4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

#### IV. **ERRORS CONCERNING THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST**

- A. Christ died to redeem us from Satan who is our master before being saved.
- B. Redemption basically means to be saved or delivered.
- C. You don't need redeemed if you are a good person.
- D. Christ is not the only source of redemption, one can do certain good works to acquire redemption for himself.
- E. Believers have complete redemption while alive on earth.
- F. Every time we sin, we need to be redeemed from our sin.

#### V. **APPLICATION OF THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST**

- A. Make sure you understand that you are a sinner in need of redemption.
- B. Make sure you have redemption by the blood of Christ.
- C. Remember that redemption makes you a friend of God. Is God your friend?
- D. Remind yourself that the value of things is determined by how much someone is willing to pay. Jesus paid for you with His life!
- E. Remember that those who are truly redeemed are redeemed **from** the world, sin, and the consequences of sin which is the wrath of God.
- F. Remember that you have been redeemed from sin's power, but not its presence. Thomas Watson describes the believer as having escaped from Satan's prison, but still walking around with the chains of sin on his legs.

The redeemed are paradoxically slaves, the slaves of God, for they were bought with a price. . . Believers are not brought by Christ into a liberty of selfish ease. Rather, since they have been bought by God at a terrible cost, they have become God's slaves, to do His will.  
Leon Morris, *Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, pg. 54.

- G. Look forward to the future day when you will be both redeemed from the power and presence of sin.
- H. Be diligent to pray for and share the gospel with those who don't have redemption through Christ. It is your responsibility to tell them that they are in bondage to sin and Satan and to give them the gospel that they might be redeemed.

The London plague of 1665 was terrible. Most shops closed, orphans roamed the streets, parents wailed, and the dead were borne out daily. On July 16, 1665 businessman Walter Petherick, a widower with four children, took his family to the parish church. The sun was brilliant, the Thames smooth. But the heart of London was sad, and the somber church was packed. The minister read from Habakkuk 3: Fig trees may no longer bloom, or vineyards produce grapes; olive trees may be fruitless, and harvest time a failure; sheep pens may be empty, and cattle stalls vacant, but I will still [rejoice in the Lord].

That evening a horror fell over Petherick. He feared his children would die. He called them together, read Habakkuk 3, sent them to bed, then knelt and prayed earnestly for the first time in years. He cried over each child, saying, "If my children were snatched from me - my fine boys and lovely girls - the treasures that she left me - how could I rejoice in the Lord?" He continued praying in anguish, "Spare him, oh, spare him. Spare her, O Lord; have pity!"

As he prayed he realized he had long neglected prayer and the Lord. He had been more concerned for figs and olives and cattle and harvest than for the things of Christ. He wept, confessed, prayed on - and found peace.

The next year as the Great Fire consumed London, it threatened Petherick's warehouse containing practically all his earthly substance. This time, however, there was no anguish, just simple trust in God's will. He later wrote, "Lord, thou hast been pleased by pestilence and fire to redeem my soul from destruction. Thou didst threaten me with the loss of thy choicest gifts that I might set my heart's affections once more upon the Giver. But the fig tree did not wither; the vines did not perish; the olive not fail. The pestilence did not touch my children; the flames did not destroy my goods. Accept the thanks of thy servant this day and help him, all his days, to rejoice in the Lord."<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup>Robert J. Morgan, *On This Day : 265 Amazing and Inspiring Stories About Saints, Martyrs & Heroes*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000, c1997), July 16.