

Redemption

By Todd Bentley

I think as Christians we know that we are saved by grace. We sometimes forget the power in the simple truths of the Gospel. We miss out on the power that's available through the cross. It will truly come alive in your life again when you remember what Jesus accomplished. I for one am falling in love again with Jesus as I study afresh the glories of Calvary in a new way. Today we look at redemption!

"The heart of the gospel is redemption, and the essence of redemption is the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ." - Spurgeon

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7 NAS).

We have been redeemed (purchased our freedom out of slavery; to buy one out) because of the shed blood of Jesus. The blood also gives us forgiveness and cleansing of sin. I want you to think about this verse. One, we have redemption. And two, we have forgiveness. These are similar but two different things. It all happened because of the shed blood of Jesus because His grace is rich.

So let's look at the glory of redemption. The word implies so much more than forgiveness or salvation-it means to be delivered from, rescued, or brought back from slavery. The purpose of being redeemed is that you can have freedom from judgment, and the consequences of sin and death. It is so you can enjoy being brought back from captivity to liberty.

Redemption is the act of buying something back, or paying a price to return something to your possession. We know that the blood of Jesus was the purchase price for us to be redeemed from sin and all its power, which included sickness, disease, death, and poverty. The slave was not just purchased from the dock of slavery, but the word means to go from one thing to another thing.

"For He rescued us from the domain (authority) of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14 NAS). Truly I am a possession of God, blood bought, and have passed from death to life.

Justified

It was by His redemption that we have free grace to be justified in His sight. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (see 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV). "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24 NKJV).

I love that Jesus not only spoke of His death to the disciples on a cross, but He spoke of His purpose. Christ Jesus "gave His life a ransom (payment) for many" (see Matthew 20:28). And by that ransom He worked for us a great redemption. How great a price He paid.

Fruit of Redemption

When talking about the fruit of redemption, I like this thought: Redemption is the legal access or identification (what we are in Christ) or to our being in Christ. It is sealed and eternal (see Hebrews 9:11-12). Here are some of the legal benefits of our redemption.

"The blood deals with what we have done, whereas the cross (redemption) deals with what we are." - Watchman Nee

1. Redemption is our claim to the righteousness of Christ. We stand before God right, with no sense of guilt, shame, or fear, and without any condemnation or sin consciousness.

2. We are redeemed from the curse of the law. We are made now to receive the blessings of Abraham.

3. "By your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests" (Revelation 5:9-10 ESV).

4. I think one of the greatest benefits of redemption is that I am not my own-I am bought at a price (see 1 Corinthians 6:19). I am now adopted into His family.

5. Healing through the redemption and covenant that was made in blood was a part of the blessing of the cross. It was a part of being redeemed from the curse of the law. It must be preached as the full message of the cross.

Jesus bore our sickness and disease at the same time that He bore in His body our sins.

"When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: He took our infirmities and bore our diseases" (Matthew 8:16-17 NIV).

He healed all that were sick. The word "infirmity" in this passage here means: disease, weakness, frailty, or sickness. Also the word here for "He took our infirmities" means "to lay hold of or to take in order to carry away, to claim for one's self.

Covenant Promise

"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace (shalom, health, well being) was on him, and by his wounds (stripes) we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5 NIV).

He "bore" in Hebrew means, "to take away one's sorrow and grief (pain). In Hebrew this word implies "sickness, disease, and pain, both physical and soul." The word for "sorrow" means, "to have physical and mental pain." The word "healed" (ropha) in the Hebrew means, "to make one healthful or to cure." It can also suggest a gradual process. The word used for "stripes" in this verse means "to bruise." Jesus bore our sickness, pain, sorrow, and disease at the same time He bore our sins in His body on a tree (the cross). "By his wounds (stripes) you have been healed" (see 1 Peter 2:24 NIV).

Benefits of Redemption

To have redemption is to have been forgiven, be righteous, have peace, have the Holy Spirit, reconciliation, freedom, adoption, be holy and justified. These are just a few blessings of redemption. The final act of redemption will be our bodies (see Romans 8:23).

Remember how precious this gift of redemption is.

"Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19 NAS).

In Him,

Todd Bentley

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