

## Redemption

We have been looking at issues of theology and are now at the point where we are looking at the theology of salvation, or soteriology. There is a difference between doctrine and theology. Doctrines can be considered on their own, like the role of music in worship, modesty in dress, or the purpose of a vow. In theology we look at the logical order between doctrines that deal with the relationship we have with God. It is the "ology" part that speaks of that logic. When we first started the series, we studied about how the Bible was given by inspiration. Then, logically, the Bible affirmed our understanding of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The next logical point is that God created man, man sinned, which leads us to examine our salvation. There is a logical progression between these doctrines. Today, we are going to look at the foundation of salvation that Christ has secured.

### 1. God's plan -

Salvation starts with what God has planned and provided for us *before* the foundation of the world.

1Pet 1:17-21 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that

your faith and hope might be in God.

God was not surprised by the sin of man in the Fall. Once man fell into sin, it was not like God had to resort to Plan B. Plan A was to plan to send Christ for our redemption. Even though Adam and Eve were going to sin freely and willfully, God still created man. When man sinned, God did not run around waving His hands in the air shouting, "What am I going to do now!?" This is a testimony of the wisdom, love, and selflessness of God. The Father was willing, the Son was willing, and the Holy Spirit was willing, all by their own infinite counsel.

Eph 1:9-12 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

He planned this, not because He was *forced* to do it, but because He was pleased to do it for us.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It was also a joy to God to offer salvation in spite knowing people would reject Him.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

## 2. Old Testament Sacrifices Were Only a Type of the Perfect Sacrifice of Christ -

In God's plan, He had set up the sacrifices in the Law as a type (symbol) to prepare the way for the perfect sacrifice of the Lamb of God. John the Baptist pointed this out when he saw Jesus coming back from His temptation in the wilderness after His baptism.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

The Jews had the testimony of the Law to teach them about their need for a sacrifice for sin, but the sacrifices of the Law were never able to actually take their sins away. Their sins were covered, but not removed. Those sacrifices were object lessons for the Jews.

Heb 10:1-9 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

3 But in those *sacrifices* there is a remembrance again *made* of sins every year.

4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and *sacrifices*

for sin thou hast had no pleasure.  
7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

...

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

After the resurrection, practicing the sacrifices of the Law continued but God removed that very essential practice in 70 AD when General Titus came and destroyed the Temple. Without the Temple, there could be no sacrifice. If there was to be any sacrifice, it would have to be the ultimate one that God had provided. God had stipulated that the only place where they could make their atonement would be in the place that *He* chose.

Deu 12:13,14 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:

14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

After the various locations for the tent of the Tabernacle, God had Solomon build the Temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. This was the same place where Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac, symbolically, as a test. God spared Abraham the sacrifice of *that* son, but there would be another Son descended from him where God would provide Himself *for* Himself as a sacrifice at that very mount.

Solomon prayed at the dedication of the Temple and God answered that prayer in 2 Chronicles.

2Chr 7:12-16 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and **mine ears attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.**

16 For now have **I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever:** and mine eyes and **mine heart shall be there perpetually.**

Jesus told about the destruction of the Temple in Matthew 24:1,2

Matt 24:1,2 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

When the Temple was destroyed, the altar was gone, the priesthood was disbanded, the ritual purity laws could no longer be fulfilled. The Jews understood that the Torah itself prohibited offering sacrifices anywhere else or in any other way. Offering sacrifices without the Temple would be illegitimate and sinful, not a way of keeping the law.

There *was* one foundation wall that was left of the Temple. Many Jews believe that the *Shekinah*, or cloud of God's glory, is still present there. Even though they can't sacrifice, they still see the Wall as a way to seek God through the Temple as God told them in 2 Chronicles. Solomon had prayed for this:

1Kgs 8:47-50 *Yet* if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

48 And *so* return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

49 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

50 And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

So not only at the Wailing Wall, but all over the world Jews will turn and face Jerusalem and the Temple wall to pray.

However, the most significant part of that Temple is no longer available to them. They turn, they bob, they pray, but the sacrifices for sins cannot be offered. That is because the sacrifice they need is the one that the other sacrifices pointed to: Jesus Christ.

### 3. The price of our redemption -

I often say that our sinfulness, whether we act on it or not, is the reason why we are in opposition to the infinitely holy and righteous God. By that logic, our sinfulness is considered infinitely sinful and requires an infinite payment from someone who is infinitely qualified make that payment. That payment is the price of our redemption that only Jesus Christ could make.

2Cor 5:20-21 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Jesus was made the infinite sinfulness of man who was originally infinitely sinless so that we could take on his infinite righteousness. There are several words that describe the price of that payment.

The first is the price that is substituted for the person paid for. We were slaves to sin and the cost that was substituted was Jesus Christ Himself.

1Tim 2:5,6 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;  
6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

This is why the word *ransom*, or substitutionary payment, is used. The cost for your soul was the blood of Jesus Christ. That infinite payment makes you infinitely precious to God.

1Pet 1:18,19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;  
19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

In vs. 18, the word *redeemed* is that same word for the price of the payment. Then, in vs. 19 it says clearly no other payment such as silver or gold could ever do. It had to be Jesus Christ. Then in Ephesians 1:7, yet another form of the word is used that emphasizes that the ransom is fully paid.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood,

the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

The Greek word for redemption is the most common word and indicates that the price of redemption was *fully* paid.

There is yet one more word that is used that indicates that we have been bought out of the market for slaves. We were not just bought with a price. We were *also* freed from our slavery to sin and placed in the family of God as His child.

Gal 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

#### 4. The judgment has been satisfied -

There is another dimension for our redemption. God planned for our redemption, He paid the full price for our redemption, and *now* that payment has been made to satisfy the wrath of God which we deserve.

1John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

While the word *redemption* highlights how Christ's death purchased our freedom from sin and bondage, the word *propitiation* emphasizes that this same sacrifice then satisfied God's holy justice. Redemption shows the cost to rescue the sinner; propitiation reveals that the sacrifice *also* appeased the offended righteousness of God. Both aspects are essential to a full understanding of the atonement.

You would think that if our rottenness had cost someone the life of his son that he would be even more angry with us. The fact that Jesus freely offered Himself for our rotten sinfulness makes the difference. Instead of being angry with us, for His Son's sake God accepted the payment for our sinful soul. Rather than deepening God's anger, Christ's



sacrifice opened the door to reconciliation because of His great love for us.

## 5. Born again -

I love the illustration that someone made up about how someone asked Jesus how much He loved him. Jesus said, "This much" as He stretched out His arms and died.

Our redemption and the satisfaction of God's wrath has ushered us into the family of God which is the basis of our salvation. Through Him, we are not only ransomed, we are also received into the family of God. There is a popular saying that "You are not worthless: God made you, and God don't make no junk." More accurately, God *remade* you. He made you born again.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

London businessman Lindsay Clegg told the story of a warehouse property he was selling. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and strewn trash around the interior.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, Clegg took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage.

"Forget about the repairs," the buyer said. "When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site."

Compared with the renovation God has in mind, our efforts to improve our own lives are as trivial as sweeping a warehouse slated for the

wrecking ball. When we become God's, our old life is over.

2Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

He makes all things new. All  
He wants is the site and the  
permission to build.

– Ian L. Wilson

The Bible describes Satan as "the accuser of our brethren" who accuses believers before God day and night.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

The devil seeks to remind God, and us, of every failure, every sin, every moment of shame. But for the believer, those accusations fall powerless, because we are no longer judged by our record, but by Christ's. We are *in Him*:

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

We are clothed in His righteousness.

2Cor 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

We are bought with His blood.

Rev 5:9 And 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;

When Satan points to our guilt, God sees the finished work of Christ. The charges are dismissed, not because we are innocent in ourselves, but because Jesus paid the price in full. As Romans 8:33,34 declares:

Rom 8:33,34 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

In Christ, the courtroom is closed, the gavel has fallen, and the verdict is grace.

Today, you have heard the truth of redemption about how God planned it before the foundation of the world, how Jesus paid the full price with His own blood, and how that sacrifice satisfied the judgment you and I rightfully deserved. You have heard how this redemption not only pays your ransom but makes you a child of God forever. And you have seen how, in Christ, the accusations of the enemy fall silent because we are no longer condemned but covered in the righteousness of Jesus.

This is great news, but only if you have surrendered yourself to God and accepted the salvation Jesus paid for. If you are lost, the truth is this: you are far from God and still in your sin. You may live as though you belong to yourself, but you were created by God and for God. Though you have turned away from Him, He has not turned away from you. Christ died for you. He took your sin, bore your shame, and paid the full price for your redemption. But that redemption is not yours until you receive it by faith. God is not asking you to fix your life or clean yourself up. He is asking for your surrender, so that He might make you new. Will you be born again? Today is the day of salvation. Will you say, "Yes,

Lord: take my broken life and redeem it"?

If you are saved, this message is a call to remember: you were bought with a price. You are not your own.

1Cor 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Are you living like someone redeemed? Have you grown casual with grace or dulled your ears to the sound of your Redeemer's call? Perhaps you've let the enemy's accusations creep in and make you doubt your standing. Child of God, there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The courtroom is closed. The verdict is in. Walk in freedom and serve in gratitude. Recommit your life today to live worthy of the price that was paid.

Whether you need to be redeemed or need to return, the arms of Christ are open. The blood has been shed. The price has been paid. What will you do with your redemption?

1. God's plan - 1Pet 1:17-21, Eph 1:9-12, Heb 12:2
2. Old Testament Sacrifices Were Only a Type of the Perfect Sacrifice of Christ - John 1:29, Heb 10:1-9, Deu 12:13,14, 2Chr 7:12-16, Matt 24:1,2, 1Kgs 8:47-50
3. The price of our redemption - 2Cor 5:20-21, 1Tim 2:5,6, 1Pet 1:18,19, Eph 1:7, Gal 4:5
4. The judgment has been satisfied - 1John 4:10
5. Born again - John 3:3, 2Cor. 5:17, 2Cor. 5:17, Rev 12:10, Rom 8:1 , 2Cor 5:21, Rev 5:9, Rom 8:33,34, 1Cor 6:19-20