

More Than Being Saved!

Eight Major Doctrines Defining New Testament Salvation

VIII. REDEMPTION

Redemption means to purchase or buy back something that originally belonged to the purchaser. Concerning salvation, it refers to the death of Jesus Christ where He buys back the sinner, His *blood* being the payment.

Redemption is the foundation of salvation; it is the basis of the seven previous doctrines. Before God could provide eternal salvation to anyone, He had to pay the ransom required to release the sinner from his sins. GOD COULD NOT DECREE SALVATION UNTO MAN, HE HAD TO BUY IT!

A. Why Man Needs Redemption

1. Another result of Adam eating from the tree of knowledge is that he, in effect, *sold himself* to sin. He knew that his disobedience would bring death (1 Timothy 2:14), but he decided that he would rather die with Eve than live with God. As mentioned before, Adam's sin did not only affect him, it also affected all of his descendants (see *IMPUTATION*). The sinful nature he got when he ate is passed on to all humanity. Therefore, every person on earth is hopelessly bound to sin (as well as to its father—Satan, John 8:44); and unless he is redeemed by someone who is *not bound* to it, he will die and spend eternity in Hell paying for his sins *himself!*

2. God saw man's pitiful condition and according to His great love and grace devised a redemption plan to buy him back from his iniquity (Titus 2:14). The climax of this plan was the sending of His Son to earth to give His life (blood) as the ransom (Matthew 20:28). This is the main reason "**the Word**" became flesh (John 1:1-3). If Jesus came to earth but failed to die a redemptive death, His whole ministry would have been in vain. No matter what else He may have done (healings, miracles, etc.) man would still be in his sins, under a curse, and bound for Hell (Galatians 3:10-13).

3. That God would go to such great lengths to redeem His enemy (Romans 5:8-10!) shows the extent of the love and compassion He has for him. *Christ is the Giver and the Gift, the Offerer and the Offering, the Redeemer and the Redemption*. Only through Him can a person be freed from his bondage to sin and death, for He alone can provide redemption (Acts 4:12).

B. The Actual Price Of Redemption

For something to be redeemed a specific price has to be paid, and the price to redeem the sinner is blood. According to Leviticus 17:11, "**The life of the flesh is in the blood...it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.**" So blood not only represents life, it is actually physical life itself. Before God would accept an animal sacrifice in the Old Testament, a priest had to apply its blood on an altar in behalf of the offerer. The death of the sacrifice alone could not atone for the offerer's sins. The priest must apply its blood to complete the redemption. Again, the Old Testament sacrifices could not take away sin (see *Propitiation*). The shedding and application of animal blood which the Old Testament so vividly describes is only a picture of Christ's blood which can take it away (Hebrews ch. 10).

2. The blood of Christ can redeem sinners for at least three reasons:

a. It does not have any taint of sin in it. The Lord did not inherit a sinful nature from Adam as everyone else because a person's nature comes from his father. Since God is Christ's father, He has His nature (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35). Of course, Mary, His mother descended from Adam, but this does not affect Christ in this respect.

b. Adam's sin corrupted his blood and caused his death. The last Adam (Christ) knew no sin; His blood is incorruptible (1 Peter 1:18-19).

c. The blood that flowed through His veins was His Father's (Acts 20:28), and since He is God manifest in the flesh, it could be no less (1 Timothy 3:16).

C. The Application Of The Blood

1. Since God is a spiritual and eternal being, His blood has a spiritual and eternal application to the believer. There is more to Christ's blood than the physical components that were seen at the crucifixion, for it *still exists* and is available to all, but it is only applied to those who receive Him. You cannot get Christ's blood without getting Him, they are inseparable.

2. The moment a person believes on Christ, Christ *literally washes* him from his sins with His blood (Revelation 1:5), cleansing his soul from all sin (1 John 1:7), and supplying him with an *eternal redemption* (Romans 3:24; Hebrews 9:12). Furthermore, through Christ's redemption the saint has been completely freed from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13), from all iniquity (Titus 2:14), and from his vain life (1 Peter 1:18).

3. In summary, the precious blood of Christ did (and does) the following:

- a. Purchased the Church (Acts 20:28)
- b. Brought justification (Romans 5:9)
- c. Brought reconciliation (Colossians 1:20)
- d. Brought propitiation (Romans 3:24)
- e. Brought sanctification (Hebrews 13:12)
- f. Brought redemption (Romans 3:24)
- g. Washes the believer (Revelation 1:5)
- h. Cleanses the believer (1 John 1:7)
- i. Makes the believer nigh (Ephesians 2:13)
- j. Gives the believer peace (Colossians 1:20)

4. The two ordinances of the church also speak of Christ's redemptive work. The first, *baptism*, shows His death to sin and the believer's identification with Him. The broken bread of the second, the *Lord's supper*, represents His tortured body, and the fruit of the vine, His shed blood (Matthew 26:26-30; Romans 6:3-8). God established these ordinances so Christians would not forget the price paid to redeem them.

D. The Believer's Responsibility

1. The believer must remember that since Christ has bought him he is no longer his own. He is not to do what he desires with his body but what his Owner desires. Every Christian is the steward of his own body and God will judge him according to the works he performs in it. It is God's will that he glorify his redeemer with a holy and obedient life (1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 6:19-20).

Summary Of The Eight Doctrines

1. **Regeneration** A changed nature. The believer is no longer a child of wrath but is literally born into God's family and given Christ's nature.
2. **Adoption** A changed position. The believer is no longer a child of the world but is given the position of an adult son in God's family.
3. **Justification** A changed standing. The believer is no longer a sinner in God's sight because He imputes to his account the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
4. **Imputation** God put the sins of the world on the account of Jesus Christ, and He puts Christ's righteousness on the account of the believing sinner.
5. **Sanctification** A changed character. The believer is no longer defiled and unclean but is now separated and holy unto God in Christ Jesus.
6. **Reconciliation** A changed relationship. The believer is no longer God's enemy but now has peace with Him and is His friend.
7. **Propitiation** All the wrath of God that was once upon the believer has been appeased by the substitutionary death of Christ.
8. **Redemption** The death and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ has bought the believer back from sin.

In conclusion, if the reader only learns one thing from the study of these doctrines it should be that the born again Christian is *eternally secure in Jesus Christ*. Each doctrine individually proves eternal salvation and collectively the proof is overwhelming. Everything God requires a person to be (righteous, holy, sinless, perfect, etc.) He supplies in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the believer's union with Christ that makes these virtues his own, so ***all who are in Him are as secure in their salvation as He is alive!***

Amen
