

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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UNDERSTANDING REDEMPTION

Someone asked me recently, “Why didn’t God simply forgive Adam and Eve after they transgressed in the garden?” I told them I did not know if God forgave them or not, but if He did, it did not change the result of what they had done. Even if God forgave Adam and Eve, sin would still have dominion over them; Satan would still be the God of this world; their children would still be *“conceived in sin” and shapen in iniquity;*” Psalms 51:5 and the death sentence (condemnation) would still hang over the head of every person from that day forward. Maybe they were forgiven, but what they needed was redemption.

Forgiveness is not redemption. Forgiveness deals with your past. Redemption is the act of recovering something that was lost. To understand redemption, there are four questions we must answer.

1. WHAT WAS LOST? We are what was lost. Adam’s transgression sold all humanity into the bondage of sin and Satan. The prophet spoke of this saying, *“For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.”* Isaiah 52:3 The apostle Paul confirms this when he speaks of trying to please God by the Law **before** he came to Christ. He said, *“...but I am carnal, sold under sin.”* Romans 7:14 In

Adam, we were all sold “*under sin*” into the kingdom of darkness Colossians 1:13 from which we could never redeem ourselves.

2. WHO WAS IT LOST TO? We were lost to God. He created mankind in his image and for his glory. Mankind was to be a flesh and blood manifestation of the invisible God. In Adam’s transgression, we lost the image of God and took on the image of the serpent. John wrote, “*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning*” and “*In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God...*” 1 John 3:8, 10 When Jesus said He came “*...to seek and to save that which was lost,*” he is speaking of us as being lost to God. Our redemption restores to God that which was lost to him. John wrote, “*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...*” Revelation 5:9 In redemption, the image and glory of God is restored upon those who are restored to God. Romans 8:29-30 As He was in Christ, so now in the redeemed, God is once again “*manifested in the flesh.*” 1 Timothy 3:16

3. WHO TOOK POSSESSION OF WHAT WAS LOST? Sin and Satan became the lords over all humanity. They became possessors of what belonged to God. Just as God sent Moses to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt, God sent his own Son to deliver us from slavery in sin. Jesus said, “*Whosoever committeth sin is the servant (slave) of sin.*” John 8:34 Redemption delivers us

from that bondage. Paul wrote that Christ “...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us **from all iniquity**, and purify **unto himself** a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:14 Notice that Christ redeemed us “from all iniquity”, and “unto himself.” This is why the angel told Joseph “thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 Calvary was not about paying a debt for sin. It was about delivering us from sin itself.

4. WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST TO THE ONE IT WAS LOST TO? The final part of understanding redemption is to recognize what was required to redeem that which was lost. This is called the “ransom.” It is the cost of redemption. The scripture is clear that Christ “...gave himself a ransom for all...” I Timothy 2:6 A ransom does not necessarily speak of a payment to someone, but it does always speak of what it cost to redeem something. In World War II, millions of Allied soldiers died on the battlefield fighting the Nazis. Their blood was the ransom required to deliver the world from Hitler’s tyranny. Even so, the blood of Christ was the ransom required to destroy Satan and deliver us from all sin and iniquity. No one has to be a slave to sin or Satan any longer, because Christ shed his blood to make us free. We are redeemed! “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;” Psalms 107:2

Finally, there is a mistranslation in the KJV and some other versions of the Bible which blind many people to the truth of redemption. When the apostle tells us “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...”

Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, the word he used that was translated as “*forgiveness*” is the Greek word “*aphesis*” which actually means “*freedom.*” “*Aphesis*” is the word Jesus used for both “*deliverance*” and “*liberty*” when he read the prophecy “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach **deliverance** to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to **set at liberty** them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*” Luke 4:18-19 “*Aphesis*” always means freedom. “*We have redemption through his blood, the **freedom from** sins...*” Jesus came not to only forgive sins, but to redeem from sin and restore us to God.