

Study 0032

Scripture Text: Romans 3:24-27; Ephesians 1:4-7

In this study, we shall be looking at REDEMPTION, which is a major fundamental theme, and is a part of the finished works of Christ. We shall also take a look at ADOPTION, another fundamental theme, which is a direct result of redemption. May the Lord help us to study, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Redemption

This is the buying back of one who is in slavery and bringing him into freedom. It can also be described as the payment for the return of one who had sold himself into slavery or for the return of one's property which had been sold. The term got its relevance from the Old Testament practice where property or persons could be sold to another person, who can only utilize such property or persons for no more than 50 years. The 50th year was the year of jubilee, at which time the property reverted to the original owner; and where it is a human being, the person who sold himself into slavery is released. Redemption thus occurs between the time of sale of the property or person and the year of jubilee, and the redemption price is calculated by the number of years remaining to the year of jubilee. Thus, if a person sold his property for #50,000 twenty-five years before the year of jubilee, then the annual value of the property will be #2,000; and if the property is to be redeemed 5 years before jubilee, then, the owner, who wishes to redeem the property will pay #10,000 to the person who bought the property from him and the property reverts to the owner. The same would happen if it was a person who is being redeemed (**Leviticus 25:1-55**). There was also the matter of who could redeem a property or person. Usually, the redeemer would be the nearest kin to the person who either owned the property or the person who is sold into slavery. In the absence of the nearest kin, anyone else could redeem the property or person (**Ruth 2:20; 3:8-13; 4:1-15**). However, where it is someone else who redeems the property or person, he cannot keep the property, neither can he enslave the person—the property must be released to the original owner or his descendants; and the person must be allowed to go free. This is the crux of redemption: you cannot redeem a person and he becomes enslaved again! And where the year of jubilee is arrived at without redemption, then the property or the person must be released, and no redemption price is paid (**Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-3**).

Some of the significant rights and privileges of the believer in Christ derive from redemption; among which is adoption. As we look at the application of the Old Testament practice of redemption with respect to the New Testament believer, we shall begin to appreciate why redemption and its direct off-shoot (adoption), are considered good news!

- (a) In the New Testament, the believer is bought or ransomed from the devil to whom man had sold himself in the Garden of Eden (**Genesis 3:1-8; Romans 6:16; 5:12, 19**);
- (b) The purchase price for the redemption of the New Testament saint is the blood of Jesus (**1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 6:20**). The blood of calves and bulls could not do that; neither could the blood of any other human being.
- (c) Jesus Christ Himself is our Redeemer (**Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Mark 10:45**), and therefore our Kinsman.
- (d) Our redemption is deliverance from bondage and captivity to the devil, and to the elements of this present world (**Ephesians 2:1-3; Galatians 1:4**).
- (e) In New Testament, everyday is the day of jubilee (release), because Christ has paid the price for our redemption. Thus, the day you come to the realization that you are no longer to be enslaved, that is the day you walk out free (**Luke 4:18-19; 2 Corinthians 6:2**). Remember, that the devil is not going to release you, but in the name of Jesus, he

has no choice. He will however, try to bring us back into captivity through temptation; but in Jesus' name, he has failed! (**Exodus 14:5-28; Hebrews 11:29**)

Because we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ (a priceless, precious blood):

1. We are completely free from obligations to the devil or sin. This means that any vows or oaths made in a secret society, cult, herbalist's home, and such like, even if it was made directly to the devil, before a person became aware of his redemption by the blood of Jesus, become null and void, ineffective, and untenable. Such a person is thus free from **all** such obligations and delivered from the consequences thereof (**Galatians 4:8-12**).
2. No believer in Christ should be speaking of deliverance as is commonly touted; rather, we should focus on knowing God more, and knowing our rights and privileges in Christ (**Luke 1:67-75; Romans 7:2-6; 6:12-23; John 8:31-36; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 1:15-19; 2 Peter 1:2-4; Proverbs 11:9**);
3. Every curse that may have been passing down one's natural family line will have nothing to do with the redeemed of the Lord; instead, he is bestowed with every spiritual and material blessing (**Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 1:3; Romans 8:9, 13-14**);
4. We are freed from all sins (iniquities), and cleansed to be Christ's very own, so that we can do good works (**Titus 2:14; Ephesians 2:10**);
5. We are not to submit ourselves to be servants of men, rather, we are to serve men as unto the Lord (**1 Corinthians 7:23; Colossians 3:22-25; Ephesians 6:5-8**);
6. We must pursue personal holiness henceforth, otherwise, we would be right back where we were—in bondage to the devil and the elements (**1 Corinthians 6:15-20; 1 Peter 1:13-19; Ephesians 4:30**);
7. Church leaders should be very careful with the way they treat or handle the flock of God (**Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-4**);
8. We should be ready to give ourselves for our brethren (**1 John 3:16**); and,
9. We are now children of God, and joint heirs with Christ! (**Galatians 4:3-7; 3:29**)

Adoption

Item (9) above brings us to the theme of ADOPTION. Adoption is what happens when God makes us His sons. This is a direct consequence of redemption. Because of redemption, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit; and by reason of the Spirit of God in us, we are sons of God (**Romans 8:9, 14; John 1:12-13; 3:5-6**). Our adoption into the family of God is confirmed by the giving of the Holy Spirit to the believer, Who then reveals to him, the things that have been freely given to him (**1 Corinthians 2:9-14**). Of course, it would require faith and a yielding to the Spirit of God to receive all that God has for us. By our adoption into the Family of God, we are now God's children, and entitled to share in the inheritance of God (**1 Peter 1:3-5**), and to get a portion along with God's Firstborn Son, Jesus (who would get a double portion)—what a privilege!

In item (3) above, we saw that every family or ancestral curse is broken over the life of a redeemed; and this is because such a redeemed person no longer belongs to that human family, rather, he belongs to the family of God! (**Ephesians 2:11-22; 1 Peter 2:9-10**). This means that we are no longer bound by family idols, practices, etc., but by God's way (**1 Timothy 3:14-15; Romans 12:2**).

Conclusion

The issue of redemption and adoption bring to the fore, the awesome wonder of God's love for man, and the price He was willing to pay to buy man back from the devil, in spite of man's disobedience and rebellion (**Hosea 3:1-3**). We also see how God takes man, who should rightly be sentenced to death, shows him mercy, and brings him into His family (**2 Samuel 9:1-13**). It is our prayer that we, who have been redeemed with such a great price, and now a part of God's family as a result, will be faithful to our Father, God!

EXERCISE

Answer true or false to the statements below:

1. Redemption is what happens when a man is bought back from slavery.
2. Without a redeemer who is able to pay the redemption price, there can be no redemption.
3. All are released in the year of jubilee.
4. Adam and Eve sold mankind to the devil.
5. Jesus Christ is the redeemer of the Jews only.
6. The redemption price of a New Testament saint can be the blood of an innocent animal.
7. Sometimes, money can be used to redeem a person.
8. Redemption implies total deliverance from bondage.
9. People who have been redeemed may remain in captivity because of ignorance.
10. A redeemed person must seek deliverance through the prayers of a man of God; otherwise ancestral curses will torment him.
11. Because of the power of the occult, a person who used to be in a cult may remain under the influence of his old cult even after he has been redeemed.
12. The pursuit of personal holiness by the redeemed is imperative; otherwise, he could end up right back from where he was redeemed.
13. Only the redeemed are really and truly God's children.
14. Adoption means that Gentile Christians may or may not become sons of God.
15. Adoption implies that all those who are adopted by God have equal rights and privileges as Jesus.
16. By adoption, all redeemed people are sons of God.
17. All sons of God are heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.
18. Females are excluded from adoption—it is a male thing!
19. The Holy Spirit makes adoption, adoption!
20. Once you are redeemed, the devil hands off completely from you!