

God Redeeming the sinner through His Son (Redeem Pt 3)

This is our third study on the word *redeem*. In our previous study we covered four points that focused on why God redeems His people:- (1) God redeemed Israel to be His people, and (2) God redeemed Israel to make Him a name, and (3) God redeemed his people to do great things for them, and (4) God redeemed the Gentiles that they receive adoption as children of God. In this study we will ask, how has God redeemed His people? In our first study we covered some points that could be included in our answer, where we pointed out that God redeemed His people by His power, His greatness, and by blood. In this study we can add to that list with four *additional* points:- (1) God Almighty redeemed His people in the Old Testament by His *judgment*, and (2) God Almighty redeems sinners in the New Testament by sending His *Son* the Lord Jesus Christ, and (3) God Almighty never redeemed anyone in any age by *corruptible* things, and (4) God Almighty has offered redemption to everyone in all ages when they *believe* His words.

Let us add a little detail to our points:-

1. God Almighty redeemed His people by His judgment

Is.1:27 *Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.*

In the Old Testament the God of the Bible redeemed His people Israel (not Ishmael) by *judging* them and their enemies. God redeemed Israel from under the hand of the Egyptians, He saved them, He rescued them by *judging* the gods of Egypt (see Ex.12: 12 & Ps.82: 1). God Almighty of the Old Testament would redeem Israel, even when they had sinned and were afflicted, they would cry unto Him in their pain and He would hear their cries and send either another nation to fight off those who oppressed Israel, or He would smite their oppressors Himself, and in doing so He showed *judgment* to their oppressors and redemption to His people.

In this the church age, people only want to know the God of the Bible as a loving God who redeems, saves and rescues everyone. For the church today the only way they can “sell” God to those outside their church so that they can fill their pews and put money in their building fund, is by removing half of God’s character, the half that sees Him *judging* those who reject Him. The ability to remove this part of God’s character is seen in our “traditional” churches where it has been known for a Presbyterian Minister, who has spent years in being trained to be “skilful in the word of righteousness” (see He.5: 13), to read a passage with the word *hell* in it and miss the word *hell* out of the verse as he reads it. So not only can the minister of God choose which version of the bible to use but now it appears he can choose to delete some of the words in those versions as well. In our example the minister teaches his congregation that hell does not exist, that God does not *judge* those who reject Him.

In the Old Testament, when God saves, rescues and redeems those who believe, it also means that those who do *not* believe are condemned to His judgment. And He is the same in the New Testament (see Jn.3: 18, & 5: 24). If He were not, why would people believe God, if there was no consequence to them not believing? The Bible says that God *commands* all men everywhere to repent (see Acts 17: 30), and when someone does, and is saved and redeemed, and their neighbour does *not*, their neighbour is *judged* for their unbelief and disobedience. Whenever a believer bows their head at the dinner table in prayer, giving thanks to God, they acknowledge Him, they glorify Him, they exalt His name, and thus bring judgment on all those in the room who do *not* bow their heads to give thanks to God.

Let us not forget that when God redeems His people He does so in *judgment*.

2. God Almighty redeems sinners today by sending His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Tim 1:15 *This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

We know we have all sinned because the Bible says so (Rom.3: 23) and because that is why the law was given, to *prove* all men have sinned (see Rom. 3: 20 and 7: 1 & 8). Therefore, every man has a debt to pay for his sin (see Rom.4: 4), he owes God for breaking His law, and the penalty is eternity in the pit of hell. The law proved that his own chosen people could *not* live without breaking His law; hence why He gave them a sacrificial system to *pay* for their debt. Then God had a plan to offer salvation to *all* men, not just His chosen people through the promised Messiah, born of the seed of David, living in the land and among His people. But His people Israel proved to be so wicked that they killed His only Son, hung Him on a cross and tortured Him, even though He was without sin (Heb.4: 15). Hence, Christ, the Son of God, came to the earth to offer salvation and redemption to *both* the Jew and Gentile, for both were condemned under the law, both owed God a debt because of their sin, which they could do nothing about paying back by their own strength, wisdom, or by their own death. Therefore, God, through His Son, came down to earth, and purchased (see Acts 20: 28) their debt that each human being owes Him for their sin. And a man only has to believe God and trust that his sin is on Christ, and he is saved from the pit of hell, he is redeemed by the blood that Christ shed on Calvary, and no more payment for his debt is due.

We could change this point to read, that God redeems everyone by sending His Son, and that is true, “God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2Pet.3: 9). And to redeem everyone He sent His Son “that *whosoever* believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3: 16). This verse from the gospel of John would be one of the most well-known verses in the Bible, and this verse confirms that God *did* send His Son to redeem, to save, and to rescue the sinner. But it does not stop there, it says *whosoever* believes in Him, shall not perish! And if words have meaning then those who do not believe in Him will *not* be redeemed, but will perish.

But because God is both loving and just and He could not simply ignore their sin, so He gave them a way out; He gave us His only begotten Son. His death, and His blood that He shed paid, the debt for the sin of the whole world. But His payment is *not* just simply accounted to every living human being, but rather the Bible says that for those that believe Christ paid for their sin in full (by God’s grace) are justified, their faith is counted to them for righteousness (see Rom.4: 4 & 5). And so because no man can live a sinless life, every man owes God for breaking His law, He has a debt to pay before he dies. And God so loved the world, He knew that none could ever live out the law perfectly so He didn’t just wave everyone’s sin, (because He is just), He requires a payment of it, so people today have a choice to either believe that God, to whom we all owe our sin debt, sent His son to pay for our debt, by Christ living a sinless life, being hung on a cross and being beaten for our sin. When we believe *that*, His payment is attributed to our account, and our faith is counted for righteousness, just as it was to Abraham. If people choose to *reject* God’s free one-off payment for their sin, by His Son, then they are thrown into the lake of fire for eternity. You cannot pay one iota of your sin-debt by good works (Rom.3: 20); otherwise, God’s payment of sending Christ to the cross is of no effect! It is at this point where the Roman Catholic (if he believes his church’s teaching on Purgatory) loses his claim to being a Christian. Because either God paid the debt in *full* through Christ’s death on the cross, or He did *not* pay it at all. If a sinner can off-set his sin by good works, some of his sins are cleansed in Purgatory then God giving His only Son to pay for sin was not a sufficient or suitable sacrifice, it was not a suitable payment for the debt. But we know from the Scriptures that Christ’s death paid our sin in *full*, according to 2Cor.2: 16, Christ is *sufficient*.

Let us remember this point when we talk to the Roman Catholic, Mormon, Jehovah’s Witness, Muslim or Buddhist and ask them, has their god paid their sin-debt in full? And if they have to work to get to heaven then how can they contribute to the payment of their sin-debt? They cannot. You either believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that He paid for your debt in *full*, or you incur the debt for an eternity.

Let us rejoice every moment of every day that the Lord gives us on this earth, because those who believe in Lord Jesus “whom God set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God” (Rom.3: 25), are saved, are redeemed *by* Christ.

3. God Almighty never redeemed anyone in any age by *corruptible* things.

1Pet.1:18 *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;*

Just as we concluded our previous point with the fact that man *cannot* redeem his sin, he cannot pay the debt for his transgressions, he cannot do anything to weigh in his favour by doing good works or deeds to off-set his sin, and that sin has to be paid for in *full*, we now establish in this point that man cannot use corruptible things either to pay for his debt. The sin-debt to God can only be paid for by that which is *incorruptible*. Therefore, he cannot use his money, his gold, his silver, his house on the beach, or any material possession to pay for his sin-debt, but according to the Scriptures, such debt can only be paid for with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (see 1Pet.1: 19).

Do any of you have a mortgage with the bank, such that you owe them money as payment for your house? Well, one day you will have paid enough money to the debtor for him to have wiped your slate clean, so there will be no more debt, you would have worked hard enough and long enough to have paid enough to be free from that debt. But the bank will never simply let you *off* the debt; it *has* to be paid.

You cannot pay the debt to the bank by incorruptible things like faith and trust, you can only pay your debt off at the bank by corruptible things like gold, silver, or money. Well the *opposite* is the case with God who is spiritual (1Cor.2: 14). Payment of the debt to God for your sin, is *not* by corruptible things, but by incorruptible things, by faith in Christ's payment, by which God washes away the debt we owe Him for our sin.

4. God Almighty offers redemption to everyone in all ages when they believe His words.

Jas.1:21 *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*

The bottom-line throughout history and for this age is that God redeems, God saves those who believe *His words*. If you believe God and His words, then you will believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and if you do not, then you will *reject* Him. After all, how could God save someone, how could He rescue, or redeem, and attribute what His Son did on the cross as payment for their sin, if the person does not believe He exists or believe what He says? Because if a person does not believe God, they call Him a liar (see 1Jn.5: 10).

The preacher down at your local church is likely to believe, as the Pope does, that God has given us a message, and so as long as we hold to and believe His *message* we are Christians. That is another deception and lie from Satan who first deceived Eve by challenging God's actual *words* to her. So today, Satan challenges God's words, by encouraging the world to reject God, or believe the Pope, or believe that God has *not* given us *words* that we are able to find, hearken to and obey.

So if you sit under someone who claims to be a minister, Vicar, preacher or pastor, that changes God's words, or deletes those *he* doesn't think his congregation will like, ask yourself whether you are being obedient to God by submitting to a man (or in some cases a woman) who does not believe what God says? But rather be encouraged to believe God, who in *all* dispensations and ages, has offered redemption to everyone who believes His words.

In this study we have sought to answer the question, how has God redeemed us? In our first study we learned that God redeemed His people by His power, His greatness, and by blood. In this study we added four additional points:- (1) God Almighty redeemed His people in the Old Testament by His judgment, and (2) God Almighty redeems sinners in the New Testament by sending His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, and (3) God Almighty never redeemed anyone in any age by *corruptible* things, and (4) God Almighty has offered redemption to everyone in all ages when they believe *His words*.