

The Word of Life Messenger

“Holding forth the word of life” Phil. 2:16

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No. 5

THREE ASPECTS OF REDEMPTION

Romans 3:21-26; 8:1-13

Redemption is a great doctrine given to us in the word of God. It means to deliver by paying a price. Jesus came into this world, into the realm of the slave market of sin, to deliver us from sin's penalty.

First, let us consider the redemptive price of salvation. The price is the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of calvary. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). "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; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18, 19). "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matt. 26:28). "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12). These and many other scriptures remind us that the redemptive price of salvation is the blood of Jesus Christ. The Saviour who made this sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins was buried in a tomb for three

days and nights and arose from the grave as our living Lord. Salvation is by grace through faith when we believe in Him, whom to know is life eternal.

The second aspect of redemption is redemptive power. Redemption is not only from the penalty of sin by the blood of Christ, but also by the power of God. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the POWER of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). In the Old Testament, when God delivered the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, He describes it like this: "...By strength of hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage" (Exodus 13:14). In Romans chapter eight, God reveals His great power through the Holy Spirit in the life of the child of God. The power of the Spirit delivers us from the dominion of sin. He gives us the ability to walk after the Spirit (Romans 8:1,4). The Lord also gives us power to mind the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5,6). There is also power to mortify the deeds of the body (Romans 8:13). We, as God's children, are led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14). His Spirit

bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16). The Holy Spirit of God makes intercession for us (Romans 8:26, 27).

The third thing we would like to consider in this article is the redemptive purpose of God. If you are a child of God, do you realize that God did not save you by accident but by His own purpose and grace? He has a reason and purpose in His redemptive work of grace. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). "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" (Eph. 1:11). The purpose of God is in the Lord Jesus Christ through His death, burial and resurrection. "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:11). "Who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9). God's great
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THIS WORLD AND THE WORLD TO COME

"As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness." (Psalms 17:15)

A great many people can only think about the things they have or want to have in this world. The Christians portion however, is reserved for the world to come. True, God has been exceptionally good to even the poorest of us. He has daily loaded us with benefits (Psalms 68:19) and every good thing we have enjoyed or will enjoy comes from His very gracious hand (James 1:17). Unlike the unbeliever's portion, our portion is three-fold. We have God's presence here, we shall have His likeness hereafter, and His care and provision for all eternity. We stand in awe of the

world God created; it declares his handiwork and glory. But we look higher and further to a city whose builder and maker is God, to that place where we shall both see Him (Job 19:25), and be like Him (Psalms 17:15; 1 John 3:2). He will change our vile body that it may be like the glorious body of His dear Son (Phil. 3:20). He will be our God, His name shall be in our foreheads, and we shall serve and worship Him perfectly and purely (Rev. 22:3-5). We will be confirmed in righteousness and sin, sickness, pain, death, and separation shall no longer be known (Rev. 21:4-5, 27).

Christ will be our elder brother and our every need will be provided (Rom. 8:29, 32; 1 Peter 1:3-5). This hope is the possession of every person who by God's grace believes the gospel of how that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Do you believe the gospel of Christ? Have you placed your faith and trust in Christ? Do you have this hope? Only the crucified, risen, and coming Christ can save and provide this hope.

- Larry Windham

THE SHEPHERD AND BISHOP OF OUR SOULS

1 Peter 2:21-25

Christ died a suitable death; that is God accomplished His purpose of the salvation of sinners through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son. Christ died the innocent on the behalf of the guilty and the innocent in the place of the guilty to purchase our redemption. Having purchased our redemption with His own blood, He is now our **Supervisor**. He is described in 1 Peter 2:25 as being the "Bishop of our souls." The word **Bishop** means "overseer." We are no longer our own; we have a Lord in heaven who purchased us with His own blood and claims us for Himself (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We are to obey Him and to follow Him. We are to seek to live for His glory. How precious it should be to us that He who began a good

work in us by His grace (Phil. 1:6) will keep our souls and present us faultless before His presence (Jude 24).

He also is our **Shepherd**. As the Good Shepherd He gave His life for the sheep (John 10:11). As the Great Shepherd, He cares for, guides, protects, and provides for the sheep (Psalms 23; Hebrews 13:20). As the Chief Shepherd, He is coming again for the sheep (1 Peter 5:4). What a privilege to have a Supervisor who takes such good care of us.

Peter also says that Christ is our **Standard**. In 1 Peter 2:21 he says "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." The word **example** in the Greek language was used of a

student who was to pattern his work after the example of his teacher. Likewise, we too, are to look to Jesus as the example for our lives. Some, unfortunately, try to pattern their lives after other men and women and the ways of the world. Only Jesus is the perfect standard. It's not whether I'm as good as someone else, but whether I'm like Jesus. I won't reach His perfect standard, but I can learn a lot by studying Him closely, and letting the Holy Spirit make me more like Him.

As believers, our lives are to be submitted to Christ. Only He is our Supervisor, our Shepherd, and our Standard.

- Larry Windham

HIDDEN THINGS FOR HIDDEN ONES

It was a gracious and merciful act when Obadiah hid a hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water, 1 Kings 18:13. But how much better is it to be the Lord's hidden ones? Who shall discover those whom He hath concealed?

Who are they? Psalms 83:3 "They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones." Those hidden ones are His own. Sought out by His love, convicted by His spirit, redeemed by His blood. 1 Corinthians 6:20 "For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

He hides them, "Thy hidden ones." Your life is hid with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3 "For ye are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." John 10:28-29 "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." What a place of safety! He takes us under the feathers of his own wings. I flee to thee to hide me. Psalms 143:9 "Deliver

me, O Lord, from mine enemies; I flee unto thee to hide me."

Where he hides: In the safest place in the world.

In the pavilion of His grace. Psalms 27:5 "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock." We are not under the cloud of the law, but the covering of His redeeming grace. The word atonement means covering.

In the secret of His tabernacle. The secret place of the tabernacle was where God Himself dwelt, in the Holy of Holies. Into the secret of His own presence hath He brought us. What a blessed hiding-place is ours! God is our Refuge, we shall not be moved. Psalms 46:1 "God is our Refuge and Strength, a very present help in trouble."

The privilege enjoyed by the hidden ones. They dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwelling, and in a quiet resting-place. Isaiah 32:18 "And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwelling, and in quiet resting places."

They are taught hidden wisdom. 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak

the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the ages unto our glory." We have received the Spirit of God that we might know the things that are freely given us of God.

They receive hidden riches. Isaiah 45:3 "And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places that thou mayst know that I, the Lord, who call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel." Being in Christ, we are in the secret places where the unsearchable riches are. Ephesians 3:8 "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ." Ephesians 2:7 "That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Would you like to be hidden from the wrath of God against sin? He hides us from the judgment of God because He suffered our sins on the cross. He was buried and raised again from the dead. His blood covers our sins. There is no forgiveness except by His blood.

- Charles Ellis

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR SINS?

When one believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, trusting in His substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection as the basis for his salvation and righteousness, and not his own good works, what does God do with his sins? The Bible says that He takes them away (John 1:29); He remembers them no more (Hebrews 10:17); He washes them away (Isaiah 1:18); He blots them out never to be seen again (Isaiah 43:25); He

covers them like a thick cloud (Isaiah 44:22); He separates them from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalms 103:12); He buries them in the depths off the sea (Micah 7:19) where they will never be brought up again. How blessed it is that the Scriptures declare "There is now, therefore, no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Moreover, we are fully accepted in Christ and clothed in His righteousness. The Father accepts

us just like He accepts His own dear Son, for when He sees us He sees Him. Credited to our account is the full righteousness and obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ in all things. No wonder the Psalmist wrote "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations" (89:1).

- Larry Windham

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“The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved. Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. The floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. Thy testimonies are very sane: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever. (Psalm 93).

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purpose in our redemption also involves being fashioned like or being conformed to the image of His Son. “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren” (Romans 8:29).

Oh, how great God's redemption is. He paid the price of our salvation by the blood of Christ. He delivers and keeps us by His power. The great purpose of God guarantees our safety as we look for the second coming of Jesus. “Behold, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (I John 3:2).

- Gladwin Carpenter

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