

## ***Ephesians: The Purpose and Plan of God*** **We have Redemption!**

March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### ***Ephesians 1:7***

#### ***“In Him we have redemption...” Ephesians 1:7***

Redemption: “Repurchase of captured goods or prisoners ... ransom; release; ...”<sup>1</sup>

Redeem: “To purchase back; ... to liberate or rescue from captivity or bondage, ...”<sup>1</sup>

*“For I know that my Redeemer lives, ...” Job 19:25*

*“...O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14*

Redeem: (Greek) “... denotes ‘to buy out’ ..., especially of purchasing a slave with a view to his freedom....”<sup>2</sup>

❖ To understand the full meaning of “Redemption”, we must first understand “Slavery”.

Slave: “A person who is wholly subject to the will of another; one who has no will of his own, but whose person and services are wholly under the control of another...one who has lost the power of resistance.”<sup>1</sup>

**“Roman Slaves ...** Once bought, a slave was a slave for life. A slave could only get their freedom if they were given it by their owner or if they bought their freedom. To buy your freedom, you had to raise the same sum of money that your master had paid for you – a virtually impossible task.

If a slave married and had children, the children would automatically become slaves. Young children were sometimes killed by their parents rather than let them become slaves.

No-one is sure how many slaves existed in the Roman Empire. Even after Rome has passed its days of greatness, it is thought that 25% of all people in Rome were slaves. A rich man might own as many as 500 slaves and an emperor usually had more than 20,000 at his disposal.”<sup>3</sup>

#### Israelites were slaves in Egypt

📖 *Exodus 2:23-25* ... The people of Israel groaned under their slavery.

📖 *Exodus 6:6-7* ... The Lord said that He would redeem them!

#### All of mankind is enslaved to Sin and to Satan!

*1 John 5:19 “We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”*

*f Redemption! ... 1 John 5:18 “We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but He who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.”*

*Titus 3:3 “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.”*

*f Redemption! ... Titus 3:4-6 “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,”*

*John 8:34 “Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.’”*

*f Redemption! ... John 8:36 “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

#### *Romans 6:12-23*

*f Freedom and Redemption! ... Galatians 5:1 “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”*

**“...through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,...” Ephesians 1:7**

❖ Sin separates us from God!

*Isaiah 59:2 “but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”*

❖ The shedding of blood is required for the forgiveness of sin!

*Hebrews 9:22 “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”*

❖ Jesus has put away sin by shedding His own blood – The Lamb of God!

*Hebrews 9:11-12*

❖ Christians now have an eternal redemption!

❖ God remembers our sins no more!

*Hebrews 10:17 “then He adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.””*

### **Why is redemption important to understand?**

“...it seems as if people today want a Christianity without redemption [Universalism, Inclusionism, Ultimate Reconciliation] ... God brings about this redemption through the *blood of Christ* and this is linked, by Paul, with *the forgiveness of sins*. In the New Testament, the redemption of man is redemption from the bondage and the power of sin ... I labour this point because the contemporary view is that God doesn't take sin seriously ... redemption, however is the blood of Christ. Nothing could speak louder about how seriously God views the problem of the alienation that exists between us and Him because of our rebellion through our sin ... So redemption is accomplished through the atonement of Christ.”<sup>4</sup>

❖ The Ephesian church needed to know that it was because of God's sovereign will and purpose that they were redeemed to be His!

*Psalms 107:1-2*

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!  
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble”*

### **Endnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

<sup>2</sup> Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

<sup>3</sup> "Roman Slaves". HistoryLearningSite.co.uk. 2014. Web. <[http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/roman\\_slaves.htm](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/roman_slaves.htm)>

<sup>4</sup> Sproul, R. C. *The Purpose of God: Ephesians*. Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus, 1994. Print.

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