

SERMON NOTES

Dr. David A. Renwick -- October 21, 2012

Probing Questions: Redemption – Can I really Change?

Galatians 1:11-24, Philippians 3:4b-11; 1 Peter 1:18

A. DEFINING ‘REDEMPTION’

1. Modern Use:

We redeem Coupons, Bottles, Saving Bonds

2. Related Words in Biblical Hebrew (OT) and Greek (NT):

‘redeemer,’ ‘redeem,’ ‘redemption,’ ‘ransom,’

Words that indicate buying back and setting free, seeing and creating value in something/one else (that otherwise might become worthless).

B. MOTIVATION AND POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE

1. A New Sense of Value and being Valued
2. A New Center: Christ Your Redeemer
3. A New Sense of the Future: Forgiveness, Freedom and Gratitude
4. A New Conviction that Change is Not Optional, but is a Necessary and Possible response to God’s action
5. A New Community: With Others Redeemed by Christ

C. SCRIPTURES

God the Redeemer

Isaiah 50:2 Why was no one there when I came? Why did no one answer when I called? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot **redeem**?

Isaiah 54:8 for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love *I will have* compassion on you, says the LORD, your **Redeemer**.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my **redeemer**.

Psalms 34:22 The LORD **redeems** the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Job 19:25 I know my **Redeemer** lives - *at the last* he will stand on the earth

God’s Redeeming Action With Israel

Jeremiah 31:11 For the LORD has **ransomed** Jacob, and has **redeemed** him *from hands too strong for him*.

Isaiah 44:22 Return to me, for I have **redeemed** you

Jesus’ Costly Act of Redemption For All Of Us

Luke 2:38 (the prophet Anna) began to praise God and to speak about the baby (Jesus) to all looking for the **redemption** of Jerusalem.

Matthew 20:28 the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a **ransom** for many.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace
Revelation 5:9 and by his blood (Jesus) **ransomed** for God saints *from every tribe and language and people and nation*.

The Effect of Redemption

Psalms 69:18 Draw near to me, **redeem** me, set me free from my enemies.

Psalms 107:2, 8 Let the **redeemed** of the Lord say so, those he **redeemed** from trouble . . . Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love.

Isaiah 48:17 Thus says your **Redeemer**: I am the LORD your God, who *teaches you for your own good, who leads you* in the way you should go.

Romans 3:24, 8:21, 23 (24) justified by his grace through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus . . . (21) the creation will be set free from decay and will obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God . . . (23) and not only the *creation*, but *we ourselves*, who have the first fruits of the Spirit . . . wait for adoption, the **redemption** of *our bodies*.

1 Peter 1:18,19 you were **ransomed** from the *fruitless ways* inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR CHANGE: The 12 Steps

- Step 1 - We admitted we were powerless over our addiction - that our lives had become unmanageable
- Step 2 - Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity
- Step 3 - Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God
- Step 4 - Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves
- Step 5 - Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs
- Step 6 - Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character
- Step 7 - Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings
- Step 8 - Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all
- Step 9 - Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others
- Step 10 - Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it
- Step 11 - Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood God, praying only for knowledge of God’s will for us and the power to carry that out
- Step 12 - Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other addicts, and to practice these principles in all our affairs

Books:

Half-Time: Changing your Game Plan from Success to Significance by Bob Buford

Second Calling: Passion and Purpose for the Rest of Your Life, by Dale Hanson Bourke