

7 – JESUS, OUR REDEEMER

When Jesus tried to help His disciples understand who was great in the kingdom of God, He used His own life and mission as an illustration.

“Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” Mark 10:43-45.

In 1 Timothy 2:6 Paul described Jesus as the One “who gave Himself a ransom for all.”

- Ransom is the price paid to free a person from captivity or slavery.
- Redeem is the act of paying the price.
- A Redeemer is the one who is paying the price.
- The redeemed are the people who have been set free.

Why was a ransom price needed in order for the human race to be redeemed? Was this necessary to:

- Appease God’s wrath so that He could love us and forgive us?
- Pay off Satan in some way so that we can be free from his control?

The first could not be right, for God sent His Son into the world *because* He loved us, not so that He *could* love us (John 3:16).

The second thought also has problems. It would mean the plan of salvation would be based upon God and Satan cooperating and agreeing upon the price of the ransom.

Building on what we have learned, this lesson will help us understand why Jesus needed to give His life as “a ransom for all” 1 Timothy 2:6.

AUTHORITY OVER THE EARTH

1. What was Adam given when he was created? Genesis 1:26-28

2. What does Satan claim was given to him? Luke 4:5-7

God gave Adam dominion over the earth. The word translated dominion also means to rule or exercise authority. Satan claims that this dominion and authority was given to him. (See also 2 Peter 2:19). Since Satan is a liar, we have to ask, “Is he telling the truth or is he lying?”

3. How does Jesus describe Satan’s authority on earth?

- A. John 12:31 “The _____ of this world will be cast out.”
- B. John 14:30 “The _____ of this world is coming...”
- C. John 16:11 “The _____ of this world is judged.”

4. Read Matthew 12:22-30

- A. What did some say when Jesus cast a demon out of a man? v.24

- B. If the demon was cast out by God, what has come upon us? v.28

- C. Who is the “strong man?” v.29

- D. Why did he need to be bound? v. 29

Jesus had just freed “a demon-oppressed man who was blind and mute.” This was evidence that the kingdom of God had come and that Satan was being bound so people could be delivered from his control.

THE PRICE FOR OUR REDEMPTION

5. What price did Jesus pay to redeem everyone? 1 Peter 1:18,19

The price wasn't cheap. It cost Jesus everything. Having given His life as "a ransom for all," He doesn't want anyone to perish (1 Timothy 2:6; 2 Peter 3:9). He wants to take us home with Him. He wants to live with us now and forever (John 14:1-3, 23). Jesus' death assures us that God is on our side and that He graciously forgives us (Romans 8:31,32; Colossians 2:13,14).

6. What happens to those who refuse to belong to Jesus? 2 Peter 2:1

Even though Jesus has redeemed everyone, some people choose to deny the Lord who bought them. They bring destruction upon themselves.

7. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

A. Why does Paul say we are not our own? Who do we belong to?

B. What does Paul say should be the focus of our lives?

DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS

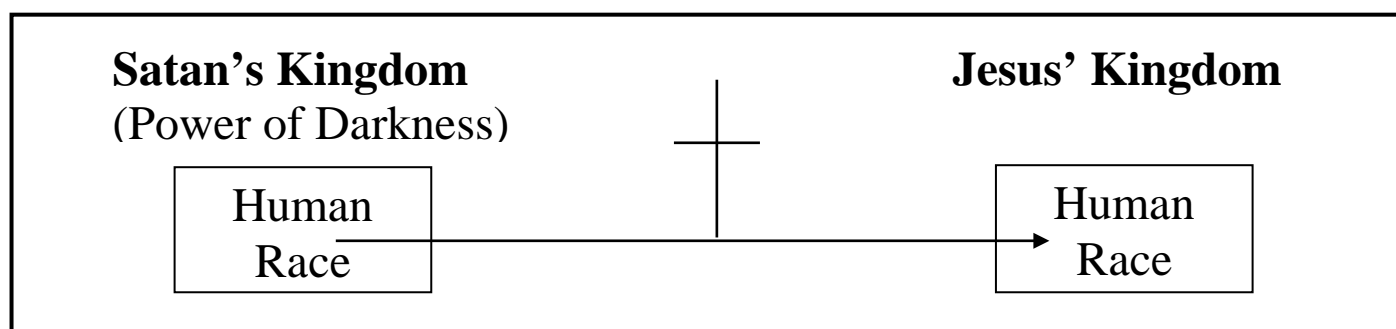
8. Read Colossians 1:12-14

A. What has God delivered the human race from?

B. What kingdom has He transferred everyone into?

Jesus' perfect life and death qualified everyone for eternal life. The redemption price that He paid enabled the human race to be transferred *legally* from the power and authority of Satan into the kingdom of Jesus.

As a result, everyone is individually free to choose whose authority and kingdom they want to be a part of. Paul was given the mission to share this good news with everyone. God wanted the truth "to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me" Acts 26:17,18.



REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW

9. What are we under if we don't obey the law? Galatians 3:10-12

"Works of the law," describes any attempt to earn eternal life through our own obedience. If we are going to live by the law, we must follow it perfectly. Since "all have sinned," we have all earned death (Romans 3:23; 6:23). We all are under the curse of the law and must die.

10. How did Jesus redeem us from the curse of the law? Gal. 3:13

As the last Adam, Jesus took us and our sins to the cross. He redeemed all of us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

Based on God's choice:

- We all were in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30,31; 15:45)
- We all were crucified in Him (2 Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 2:19).

In this way, the wages of sin were paid, the law was upheld, and God was able to be just when forgiving us (Rom. 6:23; 3:26,31; 1 John 1:9).

11. According to Galatians 4:4,5, what did Jesus redeem us from?

By being born of a woman and born under the law, Jesus became united with the human race. He did this so He could take upon Himself “the iniquity of us all” and “redeem us from every lawless deed” Isaiah 53:6; Titus 2:14. Through His death, Jesus redeemed us from under the law. We are no longer under the curse and condemnation of the law.

12. What did Jesus’ death release us from? Hebrews 2:14,15

Through sin death entered the world (Romans 5:12). Satan took advantage of our fear of death to manipulate and control us. Since we all died in Christ, we no longer need to be afraid of death. Our security in Christ frees us to serve God and others out of love rather than fear. We are able to look beyond the grave to an eternity with God where there will be “no more death” or “anything that defiles” Revelation 21:4-8, 27.

FREEDOM TO “MARRY” AGAIN

13. What no longer has dominion over the human race now that Jesus has redeemed everyone from under the law? Romans 6:14

Under the law, we are all slaves to sin (John 8:34). Without a Savior, we can’t help but sin (Romans 7:18-21). But having been redeemed from under the law, we are now free to choose what kind of life we want: a life of slavery to sin or of loving service to God (Rom 6:13,16).

14. Read Romans 7:1-4. In verse 4, who does Paul say the woman is free to marry after she has become “dead to the law”?

When Adam chose to learn about evil, he delivered the human race over to the dominion and authority of Satan. We no longer had the Holy Spirit living within. Without a Savior we would be slaves of sin and under the curse and condemnation of the law.

Paul uses the law of marriage as an illustration of our situation. Because of Adam's choice, the human race was legally "married" to Satan. (The fruit of that "marriage" is sin.) Since the law says we're married as long as both are alive, it seems the only way to be free from this marriage is for the husband to die.

"The woman [the human race] is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, the woman marries another man [Christ], she [the human race] will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man [Christ].

You [the human race] have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another – to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God." Rom. 7:2-4.

15. How were we delivered from the law of marriage to the first husband? Romans 7:3,4,6 (Compare with Galatians 2:19,20.)

Surprise! The husband doesn't die. We died in Christ! We are now free to choose to be married to Jesus and serve Him out of love. The law is not done away with or changed, but everyone is now free from the curse of the law. Satan is still alive, but he is no longer the ruler of the world.

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). We have all sinned. We have all earned death, therefore we all must die. We were delivered from the law by having died in Christ, not by the law having been changed or done away with. Paul says that legally, or through the law, he did die the death that the law demanded. When did he die? He was "crucified with Christ" Galatians 2:19,20.

16. How does this truth change the focus of our lives? Romans 7:6

The good news for Paul is that everyone was crucified with Christ, for when Jesus died, all died (2 Corinthians 5:14). This truth helps us to understand God's unconditional love for the human race. It also motivates us to live for God, rather than for ourselves (2 Cor. 5:15).

The person serving in the letter of the law will ask, "What is the *least* I can do to gain acceptance with God and have eternal life?" The person who is born of the Holy Spirit and compelled by the love of God will ask, "What is the *most* I can do to bring glory to God and help others experience His loving salvation?"

17. Where does Paul say we are now "in Christ Jesus"? Eph. 2:4-6

God "raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Paul talks about this as if it has already happened and is still going on. He can do this based on the foundational principle that what Jesus did, we were seen to have done in Him.

Physically we are still on earth. However, legally we have been qualified to live with God in heaven. Those who want Jesus to be their Savior and Lord will experience all the blessings that He earned for the human race.

AVOIDING LEGALISM AND LAWLESSNESS

18. Read Romans 10:1-10

A. What did many Israelites try to do? (3)

B. What did Christ bring to an end for the believer? (4)

C. How does a person respond with genuine faith? (9, 10)

The everlasting gospel protects us from both legalism and lawlessness.

Freedom from legalism

Legalism refers to the belief that I must do something to earn eternal life and be qualified for heaven.

Since Jesus took the initiative to save the human race from the wages of sin and to qualify us for heaven, we realize there is nothing we can do to make ourselves more holy or qualified for eternal life. Everything we do is a response. Even our faith is a response to the truth, for we believe the truth because it is true, not to make it true.

Many Israelites tried to establish their own righteousness. However, for those who believe, “Christ is the end of the law *for righteousness.*” Those who believe in Jesus are able to stop trying to earn their own righteousness. Paul did not say the law itself came to an end, but rather our looking to the law for our righteousness ended.

Freedom from lawlessness

Lawlessness refers to practicing or approving of a lifestyle that is contrary to God’s law of love (Matthew 7:23; Romans 1:32). When we believe the truth and surrender our lives to Jesus, we are choosing to let Him be the Lord and Savior of our lives. A modern word for Lord is Boss. When we choose Jesus as our Boss, we will regularly ask the question, “Lord, what is Your will for my life today?”

If we do fail, we simply confess our sin, choose again to surrender to God’s will, and thank Him for His forgiveness (1 John 1:9-2:2).

19. Out of appreciation for all that Jesus has done and promises to do, would you like to pray the following prayer?

“Dear God, Thank You for redeeming the human race from the curse and condemnation of the law. Thank You for freeing us from Satan’s authority and leading us into truth. Today, I choose to surrender my life to You and give You permission to save me from slavery to sin. I ask that You would live within me that my life may bring glory to You?”