

“Redemption”
Colossians 1:13-14
(Preached at Trinity, January 14, 2018)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Paul is continuing this long sentence that spans **Verses 9-20**. As I’ve pointed out, in the Greek it is a single sentence consisting of 218 words. Paul had received word from Epaphras of the spiritual progress of the Colossian Christians. Paul was moved in his love for them and his great desire to see them progress even further.
Colossians 1:3-4 NAU - "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints"
Colossians 1:9 NAU - "since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,"
2. Paul prays that God would grant them spiritual wisdom that would enable them to walk in a manner well-pleasing to God. He prays that they might be strengthened to persevere in joy and gratitude to God.
3. As we move to **Verse 13** Paul turns our attention to the work of Christ as our Deliverer and Redeemer. This section begins a powerful Christological passage that displays the glories of Christ. In **Verses 13-14** Paul sets before us the doctrine of redemption. Jesus rescued us and redeemed us.
What exactly do we mean by the word redemption? Redemption refers to a deliverance through the payment of a ransom. This ransom is at the heart of the atonement of Christ. Charles Hodge – “Redemption in the Christian sense of the term, is deliverance through the blood of Christ, from the power and consequence of sin.” ¹
Loraine Boettner - “To ‘ransom’ means specifically to buy back, to deliver by means of a purchase; and the kindred expression, to redeem, means to deliver by payment of a ransom.” ²
4. This morning, as we tune our minds to understand this important doctrine, there are three aspects I want us to consider:
 - I. Redemption as our deliverance
 - II. The Cost of the Redemption
 - III. The end of our redemption – The Forgiveness of Sin - We’ll look at this next week

¹ Hodge, Charles. *Systematic Theology, Vol 2*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1986). Page 245.

² Boettner, Loraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of the Atonement*, (Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2011). Page 68.

I. Redemption as our deliverance

A. The word “redeem” refers to a liberation

1. We find the word used of Israel in Luke 24 when Jesus was talking with the disciples on the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:21 NAU- "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened."

2. We also find this sense in the Old Testament

Exodus 6:6 NAS - "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.'"

3. It carries the idea of captives being set free; those in bondage being delivered.

4. We have been liberated, set free. A ransom has been paid.

B. Our redemption implies that we were held captive or in bondage to someone or something. From what have we been delivered? Our deliverance is multifaceted.

1. We have been delivered from the rigorous demands of the Law. The Law demands perfect obedience.

Galatians 3:10 NAS - "For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them."

a. No one since the fall has been able to meet the demands of the law

b. We have been delivered from the obligation of perfect obedience – This doesn't mean the demands of the Law have been reduced. The demands were all fully met and accomplished through the life of Christ

c. This does not and cannot mean that we are free from God's demand for holiness. The Law remains God's standard. It means that God counts us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ and takes pity upon our weakness.

2. We have been delivered from the power of sin

a. All men since the fall have been under bondage to sin—slaves to sin. We are under sin's dominion without possibility of escape.

b. As Christians, we have been redeemed from sin by restoring us to the favor of God and restoring us to the image of God and enabling us to love Him. Our love for Christ motivates us to holiness.

c. Through regeneration and a new heart we are no longer slaves to sin which enables us to pursue holiness.

Romans 6:17-18 NAU - "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

3. We have been delivered from the power of Satan
Colossians 1:13 NAU - "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness"
- a. Satan is said to be the prince and god of this present age. He holds all men captive to his lies and deceits
2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NAU - "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
2 Timothy 2:24-26 NAU - " The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵ with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will."
KJV - "And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. "
Ephesians 4:8 KJV - " When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."
Mark 3:27 KJV - " No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house."
 - b. Satan's kingdom is the kingdom of darkness into which all men since Adam were born. But Satan no longer has dominion over us. We have been delivered from His domain through the King of kings.
 Look at **Verse 13** - "He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,"
 - c. We have been brought into another kingdom – the kingdom of His beloved Son.
4. Jesus also has redeemed us from the power of death
- a. Death no longer has power over us
1 Corinthians 15:55 NAS - "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"
 - b. We need no longer fear death
 - c. Death is the last enemy to be conquered by our conquering Redeemer.
- C. But there is a much greater ransom that has been paid
1. Although the redemption of Christ has delivered us from all of these: the Law's condemnation, sin, Satan, and death, we must not fail to see the ultimate ransom paid, the ultimate debt satisfied.
 2. Our greatest debt is to God. We have sinned against Him. It is God's justice that had to be satisfied. It is God's wrath that had to be appeased.
 3. The Old Covenant sacrificial system bore testimony to this redemption.
 - a. A bull would be killed, his blood poured out and sprinkled upon the mercy seat as an atoning sacrifice, a propitiation to satisfy God's wrath.
 - b. It was a picture of a price paid through a substitute.

II. The Cost of our Redemption

- A. The word “redeem” refers to a ransom paid
1. If an Israelite was sold into slavery it was possible for him to be redeemed and set free
Leviticus 25:49 NAU - "his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or one of his blood relatives from his family may redeem him; or if he prospers, he may redeem himself."
 2. The Old Covenant sometimes described redemption in the sense of a substitution. Every firstborn male was to be set apart for God. But it was possible for the male to be redeemed through a substitute sacrifice.
Exodus 13:2 NAU - "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."
Exodus 13:13 NAU - "But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem."
 3. The Greek word for redemption is ἀπολύτρωσις – It means “to release on payment of a ransom.”
Colossians 1:13-14 NAU - "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption"
Matthew 20:28 NAU - "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
 4. What was the cost of our ransom? Jesus paid our debt by His substitutionary death. He gave Himself.
- B. Christ is at the heart of our redemption. It is bound up in Him. We were elected in Him. God’s eternal purpose is in Christ. He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world as our Redeemer.
1. Redemption implies something of value being paid to secure the ransom – the price of redemption.
 2. Our debt was infinite in extent. To sin against an infinitely holy God produces an infinite debt. That is why an eternity of suffering in hell will never satisfy this debt.
 3. It demanded something of infinite value. Jesus shed His own blood as our substitute. The eternal God came into the world and took our sins upon Himself and shed His blood satisfying God’s justice
Loraine Boettner - “We are taught that Christ is our Ransomer, our Redeemer, and that He has purchased our redemption at a tremendous cost, the price being His own life. No person can understand the purpose and meaning of the incarnation and crucifixion of Christ until he grasps this central truth, that Jesus came into the world to give Himself a ransom for others.” ³
Colossians 1:20 NAU - "having made peace through the blood of His cross"

³ Boettner, Loraine. *The Reformed Doctrine of the Atonement*, (Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, 2011). Page 68.

Ephesians 1:7 NAU - "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace"

Romans 3:24-25 – “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath 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;”

Acts 20:28 NAU - "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

1 Peter 1:18-19 NAU - "knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ."

- C. God's justice demands the giving of a life
1. Blood symbolizes life
Genesis 9:4-6 NAU - "Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood. ⁵ "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from *every* man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. ⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man."
 2. With the fall man has forfeited his life
Romans 6:23 NAU - "For the wages of sin is death"
 3. As our Passover Lamb Jesus Christ shed His blood as our substitute.
Exodus 12:13 NAU - "when I see the blood I will pass over you"
- D. Jesus has become our Redeemer able to meet the demands of a just and holy God
1. In pouring out His blood on the cross and surrendering His spirit into the hands of the Father, Christ expiated sin – He took away our guilt and turned away the wrath of God.
 2. Through His sacrificial atonement Jesus entered into heaven claiming redemption for His people
 3. This was demonstrated in the tearing of the Temple curtain
 4. His resurrection testified to the fact that His sacrifice had been fully received by the Father and that our justification was accomplished.
 5. No greater price could have been made for our redemption.

Conclusion:

1. In God's infinite mind He was able to explore every possible scenario for the redemption of mankind. There are some things God CANNOT do.
 - A. It would be impossible for Him to simply forgive – that would violate His justice. It would do nothing to deal with our sin. God would allow wicked sinners to dwell in His presence. God would overlook the very thing by which the fallen angels were condemned. That would be injustice!
 - B. It would be impossible for Him to merely clean up the lives of men. To help them live better. That too would do nothing about our guilt and would do nothing to satisfy God's justice. Most of the religions of the world focus upon the merit of the works of man. There is no human work great enough to remove sin.
 - C. Perhaps another could stand as our substitute—to satisfy the demands of the Law by living the life of perfection that we have not lived; to suffer in our place and appease God's wrath.
 1. Perhaps an animal. An animal could never do because it is of a lower order of creation. An animal is not an eternal being. An animal is not a moral being. Sin could not be imputed to a creature of which sin has no relevance.
 2. Perhaps another man could stand in our place – impossible. All are guilty and worthy of personal punishment.
Romans 3:10 KJV – “There is none righteous, no not one.”
 3. Perhaps an angel. They are also of a different created order. Although they are sinless they are not men. They have never experienced temptation on our level. And they could never do anything about our sinful nature.
 - D. In the infinite mind of God, He was able to explore every possible scenario.
 1. There was only one possibility. It would require a man; one who would know temptation but one who was not personally guilty; one who would keep the law perfectly; one who could bear our sin and guilt as a substitute and thus satisfy God's justice. And one who would be so holy He could impart unto sinful men His righteousness and thus make us holy.
 2. There is only one who could meet these demands and none other. There was no other possible way
Matthew 26:39 NAU - "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."
Had there been another possibility God would have delivered His Son from the cross.
2. Although the Cross was the perfect plan according to God's infinite wisdom, God was not compelled to execute the plan.
God in Christ chose to redeem a great multitude according to His mercy, by His grace – BY HIS FREE CHOICE.
Ephesians 1:5-8 NAU - "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us"

3. What must be our response to such grace?
- A. We must receive. What wickedness to reject so great a salvation, to despise the Son of God.
 - B. Our hearts should overflow with praise and gratitude. Such wondrous grace should lead us to faithful service
 - C. It should serve as a constant reminder of our dependence upon God
We cannot save ourselves – all of the fasting, sweating, praying in the world will never be able to accomplish our redemption
 - D. It should increase our confidence before Him. If God accomplished this great work of redemption for us through Christ shall he not bring it to a successful conclusion?
- Philippians 1:6 NAU** - "*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*"