

**“What it Means to be Reformed”; Session # 41 –“Christ Redeems His Sheep”,**  
**Prepared for the Adult Sunday School Class on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015,**  
**by Pastor Paul Rendall.**

**2. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of all of God’s Elect People.**

Redemption in the Bible is always of particular persons, or of Christ dying for a particular people as an entire group.

**a. Christ Redeems “the world”.**

John 1: 29

Now, if Jesus actually takes away the sin of the world, and it is not a hypothetical redemption, then why are not the sins of all the people in the world not taken away? You will say, “Because they refused to believe the gospel. Yes, that is the truth, but only from the human standpoint. From God’s standpoint, it was because He did not choose to apply the redemption purchased by Christ to them in particular. People are offered the gospel sincerely and freely, and they indeed must receive it in order to be saved; but only God can truly apply it to their souls. They cannot redeem themselves, and they cannot apply Christ’s redemption to themselves. All of this is the work of the Holy Spirit. The truth of matter is that the Lamb of God really and actually does take away the sins of the whole world of elect people whom He has chosen to inherit eternal life. There is most definitely an elect world within the whole actual number of all of the people who have ever lived. All the people who have ever lived in world are truly fallen and depraved. But it is this world of people whom God has chosen unto salvation and eternal life whom Christ has died for. It is their sins that He really and actually takes away. God most definitely applies to them the purchased redemption.

**b. Christ redeems His “sheep” -**

John 10, verses 11, 15, 16, and 26-28 –

John 10: 11 – “I am the good shepherd.” “The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

Now, it must be noticed that Jesus does not say here that He gives His life for all men, or for sheep and goats, but for the sheep only. It is not as though the sheep are not sinners, even as the goats. But He is saying that He gives His life for this particular group of people whom He by His death will make into His sheep.

John 10: 15 – “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.” “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

Even as the Father knew the Lord Jesus would fulfill all of His purpose in fulfilling the law and satisfying His justice, so the Lord Jesus knew the Father’s particular purpose to have a people for His own possession. These sheep are the elect of God, not simply the sheep from among the Jews, but also those who would be called from among the Gentiles through the gospel and the working of God. These in particular, Jesus must bring to God. These in particular would

respond to the gospel when it was preached to them, because it would be the effectual call of God that would make sure that they would hear His voice in the gospel and respond to it in faith.

John 10: 26-28 – “But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.” “my sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

Comments on Verses 26 and 27 -

You would think that the statement would be the reverse of what it is: You are not of My sheep because you do not believe. Although that is true from the human standpoint, it does not disclose the Divine purpose and working as this order does. “You do not believe because you are not of My sheep.” Jesus was saying in effect to those whom He was speaking to: You do not belong to Me. You have not been given to Me by My Father to save. You do not believe, you do not come to saving faith in Me because you do not want Me to save you. And there is no working of Divine grace in your heart to bring you to Me. You do not respond to my voice calling to you in the gospel because by nature you trust in your own righteousness and you do not want to be saved by me. My sheep are those who hear My voice speaking to them in the gospel and the power of God accompanies my words to their hearts, and thus they follow Me because they know what I am doing for them, to save them and to keep them.

Comments on Verse 28 -

Christ states categorically that He is the One who gives His sheep life. He does not give all men life. They shall never perish in their sins because of what He does for them in fulfilling the law on their behalf and dying for their sins on the cross as a propitiation, a wrath-removing sacrifice. Because God has accepted all of Christ’s good work on behalf of these who are His sheep, they will never be snatched out of either Christ’s hand, or the Father’s hand, for their purpose together is the definite and particular redemption of each one, and the application of grace to their hearts to see to it that they shall persevere in faith and be preserved by grace all through life and brought safely to heaven and the eternal state of bliss.

### **c. Christ redeems His Bride, the Church –**

Ephesians 5: 25 – “Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

Notice here that Christ loved the church and gave Himself specifically for her; all those people who make up the Universal Church composed of the elect of God from every nation and time in history; those whom the Father has chosen and called to Himself based upon the sacrificial work of Christ; Christ giving Himself to suffer in their place, them in particular. Those whom Christ died for He sanctifies and cleanses them in particular with the washing of water by the word, which is a description of the work of regeneration specifically applied to all of the elect of God at the time of their conversion, which is the time of His choosing. Christ having given His life for the church shall present her to Himself on the last day, as a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. She shall be completely holy and without blemish; the church in particular, for whom He died. Therefore, because the application of redemption is particular, no

others did He lay down His life for, or else they would also be sanctified and washed. He gives particular and saving grace to those for whom He died to save; those in particular and no others. His electing love toward His Bride, the church, is exclusive to them, as any husbands should be toward his wife.

**d. Christ bears the sins of “many” –**

Isaiah 53: 12 – “Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Hebrews 9: 27 and 28 – “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.” “To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

**e. Christ died, a ransom for “all” –**

2nd Corinthians 5: 14 – “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

Notice the “all” that Christ died for is not all and every man but the all who died with Him spiritually when He died on the cross. Therefore, when they are savingly brought to salvation the application of redemption is made to them in particular. All that Christ died for have died to sin. This cannot be said of all men in general.

1st Timothy 2: 6 – “Christ gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

Christ gave Himself a ransom for all of the elect, their being God’s elect is testified to the believer when they come to saving faith in Him and declare with their own mouth that He is their Lord. It is further testified that Christ did die for them in particular at the time of the last judgment by God Himself.

**3. The Offer of Salvation is general; the actual application of saving grace by God is Particular.**

Titus 2: 11-15 – “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.”

Notice in these verses that the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men in a general sense in the gospel of Jesus Christ; but when God applies Christ’s redemption to an individual soul it actually teaches that person to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. This comes about because Jesus Christ our Lord gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us (those who believe, God’s elect) from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people. (Again, the elect of God), which again shows a particular redemption.

**4. Redemption of individual men is too costly a thing for a man to purchase with money.** God must be given a ransom, a purchase price of the precious blood of Christ, in order for sinful souls and bodies to be redeemed.

Psalm 49: 5-13 – “Why should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity at my heels surrounds me?” “Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him – For the redemption of their souls is costly, and it shall cease forever—that he should continue to live eternally, and not see the Pit.” “For he sees wise men die; likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, and leave their wealth to others.” “Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.” “Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.” “This is the way of the foolish, and of their posterity who approve their sayings.” Selah “Like sheep they are laid in the grave and death shall feed on them; the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall be consumed in the grave, far from their dwelling.” “But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me.” Selah.

**5. This redemption was typified in the nation of Israel in Old Testament times; a particular nation and people, redeemed unto the Lord.**

Exodus 6: 2-7 – “And God spoke to Moses and said to him: I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord I was not known to them. I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. Therefore say to the children of Israel: I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.”

**6. Redemption is accomplished by the shedding of blood; the blood of the sacrificial lamb.**

The following shows the lamb as a type of our Lord Jesus Christ's redemption of all of God's elect people.

Exodus 12: 1-13 – “But the Lord said to Moses, Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt. So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land. Now the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, this month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the

blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”