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The Lord's Supper and Redemption by Jesus' Blood

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What is redemption, and what is its relationship to the blood of Jesus and the Lord's Supper?

1 Peter 1:18,19 – ...You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

“Redeem” means “to free by paying a ransom ... to liberate from an oppressive situation, *set free, rescue ...*” – *Bauer-Danker-Arndt-Gingrich*.

Consider the meaning of redemption and how it relates to the blood of Jesus that we remember in the Lord's Supper.

Redemption from Physical Circumstances

We usually think of redemption regarding forgiveness of sins. But the term is often used, especially in the Old Testament, to being bought back from physical circumstances. For example:

Redemption of property

Leviticus 25:25,26 – Financial problems may compel a man to sell property. But if he later prospered, he may redeem or purchase the property back. Or a relative could redeem the property so it remained in the family.

Ruth 4:4 illustrates this. Because of poverty, Naomi's husband had sold his property. Years later when Naomi returned from Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth, a near kinsman named Boaz chose to redeem or buy back the property. (Exodus 13:15 – redemption of the firstborn son)

Redemption from slavery or bondage

Deuteronomy 15:15 – You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you... When God enabled the Israelites to be set free from slavery in Egypt, He redeemed or bought them to Himself. As a result, they became His people. (Exodus 6:6; Deuteronomy 7:8)

Later, because of their sins, the people became slaves in Babylon. God again redeemed or purchased them to Himself to set them free from slavery. (Isaiah 48:20)

Other examples illustrate that redeeming means buying something back from belonging to someone else.

Redemption from Sin

In the spiritual application, people who should belong to God have become slaves to sin because they disobeyed God.

Romans 6:16 – Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? By practicing sin, we became enslaved: we put ourselves under the power of sin.

Titus 2:14 – Jesus 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.

Hebrews 9:12 – Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Revelation 5:9 – And they sang a new song, saying: “...You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”

Conclusion

So Jesus Christ voluntarily paid the price of dying on the cross to purchase us back from the power of sin. As a result, we no longer belong to sin, but we now belong to Jesus. This makes us responsible to obey and serve Him.

This is the power of the blood of Jesus Christ which we now remember in the Lord’s Supper.
(Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14) www.gospelway.com

My Weakness Doesn’t Change the Standard

By Russ Bowman

I occasionally read some article wherein the author rails about influences in his/her life that were strongly Bible-based. Some times the “culprit” is a family member, and at other times a religious group. And it seems fairly common for the author to have had some epiphany that has opened their eyes to the terrible impact of those folks. Those Biblical fundamentalists are decried as harsh, demanding, hypocritical, Pharisaic, or any other of a number of epithets. Ironically, there is often a note of qualification about how some of those folks are such good, sincere, and faithful disciples of Jesus. But very quickly the author will return to his newfound liberty of thought that dismisses all of the “thou shalt, and thou shalt not” in preference for some simple “just accept Jesus” mentality. The poor fundamentalists are left to their guilt-ridden paranoia and psychological oppression of all whose lives they touch.

I am a Biblical fundamentalist. I believe that I am justified and will be saved by the blood of Jesus and my trust in Him as my Lord and Savior (Romans 5:1–11). And I believe that the Bible teaches that I must therefore be obedient to Him (Matthew 7:21–22). He sent His apostles to make disciples and teach them to “observe whatever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). In reality, the idea that I can serve God on my terms and define faith however I want to is not biblical. God sets the standard for what He considers good, righteous, and faithful. I do not. And while I may not like what God says in His Word, it doesn’t change what He says in His Word. I have every right to choose to ignore it and claim to follow Jesus. But in reality I am only following my own wants, desires, and wishes. I am using the Bible to learn of Jesus, but then rejecting that same Bible when it makes demands that I do not like.

People are going to do what they want to do. Jesus wants those who “desire to come after Me” (Matthew 16:24). If that desire to follow Him makes me a Biblical fundamentalist, then so be it. I make no apologies for such, nor for the details of obedience to which that binds me. I am weaker than I would like to be and I struggle at times to live up to the standard He has set (Matthew 5:48). But my weakness doesn’t change the standard and it doesn’t make me a hypocrite. It merely reminds me of my need for His forgiveness and my gratitude for the surety of my salvation, and of the ongoing challenge of transformation from sinner to saint.

It makes little sense to call myself a disciple and then fail to obey Him and His chosen spokesmen. You are welcomed to do so if you wish. After all, you will do what you want to do. But be careful about denigrating those who are trying to follow Jesus by means of His expressed will, while you go about serving yourself and trying to convince the world of your newfound illumination and spiritual superiority. I do what I do because that I am desperately trying to please God according to His standard. You do what you do just to please yourself according to your standard. At least be honest about that.