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Subject: Redemption
Reading: 1 Peter 1v18-19

People may ask what the meaning of the word redemption is but the Biblical meaning is that of placing back in the previous state.

The question could be asked as to why redemption is necessary. It is necessary because of sin which is an awful thing. God didn't make us sinners, He made man without sin. Sin came in through deceit on the part of Eve and disobedience on the part of Adam.

David said, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5)- the sinful nature can be seen in young infants.

We were "servants unto sin" (Rom 6:17). This idea is of a bond servant who has absolutely no free will and no control over his destiny.

Romans 6:23 teaches us that "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"

We are all in bondage to sin resulting in death and we cannot release ourselves.

Psalm 49:7 teaches us that "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him"

The person who redeems us is none other than God's Son.

In the book of Ruth in the Bible find a picture of the truth of redemption.

A man and his wife had two sons and went into a foreign country. After the two sons married the three men died. Naomi (the mother-in-law) brings Ruth (one of the boys' wives) back to Israel. - Naomi has land to be redeemed but she has no money. Boaz (a near kinsman) had the right to redeem the land. A nearer kinsman(a picture of the law) would not do it.

In this story, we learn that a Redeemer must:

- Have right to redeem
- Have desire to redeem
- Have power and ability to redeem
- Have love to redeem

The Lord Jesus as the Creator has the right to redeem - "All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made". He has the power to redeem because as the perfect,

spotless Son of God He offered Himself as a sacrifice to God.

The cost of redemption to God was the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God poured out His wrath upon the Lord Jesus on the cross. All that God demanded was met by Jesus. He placed on Him “the iniquity of us all” (Isa 53:6).

Attention was then drawn to a story of a boy who was thin and hungry and took another boy's lunch. The boy deserved to be punished for what he had done but another boy came forward and bore the punishment. The naughty boy could not then be punished. This reminds us that there is “no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). God tells the believer that their “sins and iniquities I will remember no more” (Heb 8:12)

In the book of Hosea in the Bible we read of a man told by God to take a wife. They then had sons and the wife left home because she thought she could get better outside. God then tells Hosea to bring his wife back from the slave market where she had ended up in rags and bound. Hosea would need to buy back the woman he loved. He had to pay the required price that he was asked for.

We are bound in chains of sin and Jesus has paid the price that we may be removed from the place of death.

John 10:28 – “I Give unto sheep eternal life and they shall never perish”

Salvation is a gift of God; we cannot lose what we never earned.

There will be singing in heaven through eternal ages.

The opportunity for redemption is only now - “now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor 6:2)

We don't have any lease on life – all we have is today.

“not of works” (Eph 2:9) - no man is going to boast in heaven.

Thought about coming of Lord. He could come at any moment. He is going to take from this earth all that are His own.

A radio presenter once said he wanted to be the first to tell of the Lord's coming. Hell would be his doom. He knew not what he was saying.

What will you do with God's redemption?

What will you do with the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour of sinners?