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Series: The Book of Romans

# Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(63)

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[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 04/02/17)

## REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

[Colossians 1:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His Beloved Son,

<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

From [Genesis](#) to [Revelation](#), there is a great purposeful plan of God that is unfolded and it is called “**redemption**”. In a technical sense, the word **redemption** means to bring about a deliverance, and in the spiritual sense, it means that God has brought about a deliverance on our behalf. There was something that man needed to be delivered from and saved from - and that something was sin.

What God has done is perform a **redemptive** work through Jesus Christ in order to deliver men from every aspect of sin, and especially the eternal consequences of sin. The following are a few verses regarding the word **redemption** to place all of this in perspective.

[Hebrews 9:11-12](#) says,

[Hebrews 9:11-12 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

<sup>12</sup> and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

[Ephesians 1:7 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

[Colossians 1:13-14 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

[1 Peter 1:18-19 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

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<sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ*.

[Revelation 5:9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

The doctrine of redemption, or salvation, is a vital theme of all of the Bible that is centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is comprehensive. You cannot “**NOT**” find it in Scripture. The following are a number of broad, general statements about **redemption**.

**First, SALVATION IS ENTIRELY OF GOD.** What we have in the Bible is the story of God’s redeeming work on our behalf. It is the record of God’s work, of God’s activity in doing what “**HE**” had to do in order to provide salvation – not what men had to do, but what God had to do. Salvation, all of salvation, is a work of God. The Bible is not an account of man seeking after God – not at all. In fact, from [Genesis](#) to [Revelation](#) man is seen as hating God, rebelling against God, denying God, cursing God, blaspheming God, and trying to get as far away from God as He can. Man hated God so much that he simply took the Son of God, beat Him, spit on Him, blindfolded Him, hit Him in the face, mocked Him, stripped Him naked, and then nailed Him on a cross. He killed the Son of God. That is what man did.

Some people seem to think that the Bible is about what we have to do to please God, but the Bible is not about man. The Bible is about God, and it is about what God has done in order to reconcile men to Himself. Not only is God willing to save and to redeem men, but He also goes out of His way to do it, He goes out of His way in seeking men and in drawing them to Himself. The message of the Bible is really a very simple message.

[John 3:16-18](#) puts it this way,

[John 3:16-18 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

<sup>18</sup> He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The message of the Bible is simple – God loved, God gave.

[2 Corinthians 5:19](#) says,

[2 Corinthians 5:19 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> Namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

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God sent Christ. God took the initiative. Why? It is because men would never come to Christ on their own – never. **Redemption** and salvation are entirely of God - and the Bible is nothing more than a record and a demonstration of that fact. **The Bible is a record of what God has done, of what God is doing, and of what God will finally do regarding salvation.**

**Secondly, SALVATION IS ALL OF GRACE.** Salvation was accomplished in spite of us, in spite of our rebellion and unbelief, in spite of our arrogance, in spite of our sin. From the very beginning in the Garden of Eden, man has rebelled against God. Except for the grace of God operating in our life, we would never come to Christ.

[Ephesians 2:8-9](#) are the classic verses on this issue,

[Ephesians 2:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;**

**<sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

If God does not draw a man, that man cannot come. If God does not provide salvation, it is not available. If God does not provide the grace to believe, a man will die in his sin.

**Thirdly, SALVATION WAS PLANNED AND DETERMINED BEFORE TIME BEGAN.** Redemption is not an afterthought. It was not something that God thought of after man had fallen. To the contrary, this was something that was conceived and planned in the mind and heart of God before the world was even created. The biblical words to describe this are **election, chosen, called.**

Now, I know that just saying that creates a kind of spiritual tension in some people. They inevitably ask the obvious question, **“Why did God create a people that could sin? Why did God even allow evil into the world?”**

Well, I have no answer for that question. It is a great mystery, an issue that is impossible to grasp - and if someone has to understand everything about God, His decisions, and His sovereignty before they come to Christ, then they will never come. Be assured that God does not owe man an answer. **His Son and His sacrifice is His answer.** Once a person accepts that, then these other issues which they will never understand become acceptable to them.

The problem that we have is that we are not God, we are not like God. We are bound by time. We see everything that happens in a kind of time sequence. We think chronologically – how old we are, how many years we go to school, about how long we will live, how many days in a week or hours in a day. We think about being on time or being late, but God is outside of time. He sees the end from the beginning and all things in between. He sees the past, the present, and the future. We cannot understand that and never will. Before anything was made, before the first star was flung into space, before light was created, before Adam breathed his first breath, the plan of salvation and redemption and its incredible rescue was already planned and present in the mind of the triune God.

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Fourthly, **THE TRIUNE GODHEAD TOOK PART IN THIS PLAN OF SALVATION AND REDEMPTION.** It is not possible to know when or how the three persons of the Trinity determined what they would do. How the triune God makes a decision is far beyond a man's understanding, but they did make the decision to secure redemption before the world was even created.

[Ephesians 1:4](#) says,

[Ephesians 1:4 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>4</sup>Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love**

Here is my feeble understanding of what took place in that council. The Father originated the plan, the Son was chosen to execute the plan, and the Holy Spirit was chosen to apply the plan within the life of each future believer. That is all I can tell you. It was their decision. The decision that was made was that Jesus Christ would become the head of a new race. Romans 5 is all about the fact that at one time we were in Adam and now we are in Christ. We died in Adam, we live in Christ.

[1 Corinthians 15:22](#) says,

[1 Corinthians 15:22 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**

We were made sinners in Adam, we were made righteous in Christ. Jesus is actually called the Last Adam, the head of a new race.

[1 Corinthians 15:45](#) says,

[1 Corinthians 15:45 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>45</sup>So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL."  
The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.**

**The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.** In all of this, God the Father gave God the Son this new race of people whom the Son would raise up at the last day. [John 6](#) refers several times to the fact that Christ will not lose anyone that God the Father has given to Him. In [John 17](#), Jesus constantly repeats that what He is doing, He is doing for those whom His Father has given to Him. God the Father not only gave God the Son a people, He also gave Him a certain work to perform on their behalf.

[John 17:4](#) puts it this way,

[John 17:4 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>4</sup>I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.**

This work that God the Father gave God the Son to do was the work of salvation, the work of redemption. It is a gift, a free gift. We cannot earn it, buy it, or work for it. We do not deserve it, and we do not have any idea how great it really is., and it has to be received as a free gift.

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As the Spirit of God draws a person, they come by God induced faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Jesus said in [John 5:24](#),

[John 5:24 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**

That is how it works. There is no Plan B.

**Fifthly, THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION IS A DEFINITE PLAN.** I.e., there is nothing arbitrary about what God has done. It is a perfect plan and it was perfect before the foundation of the world. Everything that has happened up to this very moment regarding salvation has happened in accordance with God's overarching purpose and will. Once God says that He is going to do something, there is nothing that can stop His will and purpose from taking place.

**Sixthly, THERE IS ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY REGARDING THE CONSUMMATION OF GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION.**

In [Genesis 3](#) when God pronounced His curse on the serpent and announced the warfare between the seed of the woman and the serpent, God made it plain and clear that Satan was going to be utterly defeated and destroyed - and the Bible keeps on reminding us of this. In fact, in the Book of Revelation, we have the final picture of what will take place – just one sentence, just one verse.

[Revelation 20:10](#),

[Revelation 20:10 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>10</sup> And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

No matter how things may appear at any given time, God's redemptive plan from beginning to end is certain. Absolutely nothing will frustrate it, and no one can prevent it from taking place. The Tribulation and the Great Tribulation are divided into two 3 ½ year periods with what the Bible calls the "**abomination of desolation**" marking the midway point where the anti-christ sets himself up in the temple in Jerusalem as God. That event is certain, it will take place, and no one can stop that event from happening. It is all a part of the final consummation, and it is certain.

We have been given an account of the beginning and of the ending, and everything in between. The whole thing is there, and the work of redemption will be fulfilled **EXACTLY** as God's Word says that it will be – exactly, to the last detail. For instance, Scripture identified the exact day that the Messiah would enter into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. It identified the song that the people would be singing as He entered. No detail has been left undone. Even the details

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of how Christ would be killed were prophesied hundreds of years before crucifixion was even invented - and Scripture just goes on and on and on.

The Scriptures are relentless in giving us information. The average person just is not listening, just does not care. You can be assured that when a lost person stands before the Great White Throne Judgment of God that God is not going to apologize for not having given them enough information. To the contrary, men will stand condemned because of the abundance of information and truth that God provided – all of which is more than sufficient to substantiate who He is and what He has done.

**Seventhly, THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION ALWAYS CENTERS ON THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.**

[Ephesians 1:7-12](#) puts it this way,

[Ephesians 1:7-12 \(NASB\)](#)

**<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace**

**<sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight**

**<sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him**

**<sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him**

**<sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,**

**<sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.**

This is without any question the most misunderstood doctrine in Scripture – the doctrine of salvation, simply because it is the most important, and the enemy has done everything in his power to confuse it at every level. **There is NO mention whatsoever of any salvation anywhere in the Bible except in and through Jesus Christ.** He is the hinge on which the door turns. There is only ONE saving message in Scripture and it is called the gospel. **There is only one way of salvation – and only one.** The saints of the Old Testament were saved in Christ. They looked forward to Christ, we look back to Christ. Anybody who is ever saved is saved through Christ and Christ alone. He is the centerpiece of the plan of redemption. He is the only means of redemption.

The Bible is divided into two parts – the Old Testament and the New Testament.

In [Genesis 3](#) God promised a seed that would crush the serpent's head. Who is that seed? It is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and He did that crushing on the cross at Calvary. The Old Testament from beginning to end points to Christ. All of the types, the book of Leviticus, it is all there. Then there is the New Testament, and the glorious fulfillment of everything that was promised in the Old Testament. Every type, every shadow, every prophecy – it is all fulfilled in

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Jesus Christ. The plan of God, the purpose of God, the way of redemption and salvation, it is always in Jesus Christ, and Christ alone.

**And lastly, THIS GREAT PLAN OF GOD'S REDEMPTION HAS BEEN FULLY REVEALED TO MANKIND.** This is not something that God has hidden, this is not something that God has kept a secret, something that no one knows about. God, in His infinite wisdom, has made promise after promise, given prophecy after prophecy, provided history after history of all that He was doing in His Son Jesus Christ. There is no other book in the history of man that has been published as much as the Bible. It has been distributed all over the world. God turned to men and women who rejected Him, who rebelled against everything that He had ever done for them, and He told them exactly what He was going to do – and then He did it.

Why would God the Father want to take the most precious thing He has ever done, at the most horrific price that could be paid, and then not tell those who need it? Why would someone ever think that God did not want them to know about this great work of salvation?

God in His infinite wisdom and grace, in His love and compassion, in His mercy and kindness, looked on men and women who deserved nothing, and gave them the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. He has done everything that He can do. The work of salvation has been promised, provided, and is now awaiting the final consummation at the Second Coming of Christ.