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Ron and Val Berrus

...Laboring for the Laborers Redeemed - JCI #79 Jan 15, 2010

Just Checking In #79 Redeemed! January 15, 2010

Pilgrim's Process

Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord...for I am a 'pilgrim' with You..."

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so! Psalm 107:2

The concept of redemption is a major theme in the Word of God. The word for "redemption" includes such foundational meanings as "to buy back, to purchase, to deliver, to avenge, to set free, to restore an inheritance or a relationship."

Redemption is a Substitution IN MY PLACE We were rescued by the death of another in our place. This one who took our place also took our punishment so set us free from the enslavement of sin, death and Satan himself. 2 Co 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Redemption is a Satisfaction FOR MY PUNISHMENT Our rescue from punishment was not a mere escape leaving the requirements of a violated law unmet. Redemption accomplished the demands of the law fully, causing the Judge to look on us with favor, fully satisfied that justice has been done. Rom 3:24-26 "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

Redemption is a Victory FROM MY PRISON As is often the case with the OT prophets who speak of Jerusalem being redeemed through a great battle, so our redemption was accomplish through the greatest cosmic conflict of all time. Jesus redeemed us by conquering Satan and every spiritual adversary in the universe to set us free. Eph 1:22 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church" Col 2:15 "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Heb 5:14-15 "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Redemption is a Model FOR MY PATTERN Because of the great redemption I have experienced due to the love, sacrifice and suffering of Christ, I am called to demonstrate the same self-sacrificial love towards others. 1 Peter 1:21-24 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. Eph 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Redemption is a Relationship FOR MY PLEASURE We were redeemed to a renewed relationship, without shame, guilt, fear or regret. This great redemption has fully restored us to God as our Father and Friend. Jude 24 Now to Him who is able... to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy... Psalm 16: 9-11 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

We have been redeemed from fear to hope, from shame to joy, from sin to glory, from death to life, from guilt to love, from loneliness to fellowship, from isolation to camaraderie, from prison to a party!

Self Check:

1. What aspect of redemption is most amazing to you?
2. When was the last time you were delighted with the glory of your redemption?
3. How should being redeemed change your present outlook and perspective?
4. Write out a prayer thanking God for every aspect of redemption He has imparted to you.

For further study:

How many times is God referred to as "Redeemer?" Which one is your favorite? Look up the words "redeem, redeemed, redemption" and see what else you discover about this wonderful doctrine. Boaz, Hosea, and others have fulfilled the role of the kinsman redeemer. Compare this to the Lord Jesus redeeming you. Write out some notes and share what you learn with someone else. Lay out a lesson on redemption to share with a small group. Memorize at least one verse about being redeemed. Look up at least five hymns with the word redeemer or redeemed in them. Pick one and sing it to your Redeemer with gratitude.

"Blessed Redeemer, I am so grateful that You came to rescue me, to restore me, to secure me back to Yourself. When I consider Your great redeeming work... You paid so great a price, at so great a cost, with such great suffering, to overcome such great enemies, to accomplish so great a victory, for such great sinners, to reconcile us to so great a God... I am amazed. I owe it all to You, my great Redeemer. I am Yours. Do with me as You will, for You are worthy of all my love, my praise, my service, my life. Be glorified, Jesus, my Redeemer." Amen.

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 *Ron & Val*

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.

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