

REDEMPTION,

AND

How God provides it.

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REDEMPTION, AND HOW GOD PROVIDES IT.

REDEMPTION has been provided by God at the cost of the shedding of the blood of Christ, His beloved Son. This shows how hopeless the state of man is through sin, in that nothing else could possibly meet his case. Every reader of these lines must be redeemed to God through the precious blood of Christ before he leaves this world, or banishment without hope from His blessed and holy presence in the next will be his sure and irrevocable portion.

Redemption is often prefigured in the pages of the Old Testament. A striking instance of it may be seen in the history of Israel. "The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man *a ransom for his soul* unto the Lord, when thou numberest them; that there

be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. This they shall give, *everyone* that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs); an half shekel shall be the offering of the Lord. *Everyone* that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the Lord " (Ex. xxx. 11-16).

The redemption price paid by each Israelite, before being numbered among the people, was a silver half shekel of full weight, after the shekel of the sanctuary. It was *a ransom for his soul*, and it preserved him from the plague. In the New Testament we get the antitype in *the precious blood of Christ*. Judgment rests on fallen man, whose cup of iniquity is full, for he has not only sinned, but also crucified the Lord of glory. On the other hand, the Son of man has given His life

a ransom for many. Hence Peter, writing to believers, says, Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed by silver and gold . . . but with *the precious blood of Christ*, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet. i. 18, 19). Christ, the sent One of God, has met all His holy claims. His precious blood, shed on Calvary, has paid the full ransom price. God in grace, through righteousness, redeems to Himself out of this evil world and its traditions every one that trusts in that same precious blood. Glorified in Christ and His finished work, God has raised Him from the dead, and in Him the believer has now redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (Eph. i. 7).

Many fail to apprehend and enjoy the redemption which God has provided in the risen Christ, through *self-occupation* and *unbelief*. Some who are rich, judging by their

actions, seem to think that gifts to the poor, the orphans, and the sick, or in aid of other philanthropic work, may help towards their redemption. But hear what saith the Psalmist, inspired by Him who cannot lie (Titus i. 2) : “ They that trust in their wealth and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; *none of them can by any means redeem his brother*, nor give to God a ransom for him” (Ps. xlix. 6-9). No ; it is totally impossible for man either to redeem himself, or to help redeem his brother. God alone can do this, and He does so in a way worthy of Himself, and for His own glory and joy, through the mighty work of redemption wrought by Him through Christ at Calvary. The redemption of a soul is precious in His sight. It cost the shedding of Christ’s precious blood.

“ Here we rest, in wonder viewing
 All our guilt on Jesus laid,
 And a full redemption flowing
 From the sacrifice He made.”

Moreover, with the Lord there is *plenteous* redemption. It is, as we have seen, according to the riches of His grace. And who can compute their immensity ?

Rom. iii. 23, 24, is another scripture which shows us very clearly how God redeems the sinner. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Note well its simplicity and fulness. "Being," it is true now for the feeblest soul that believes in Jesus ; "justified," that is, cleansed, freed, discharged, and accounted just ; "freely," that is, without any work of our own of any kind or in any way whatever ; "by his grace," the rich and undeserved favour of the God of all grace Himself ; "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," that is, He having given Himself a ransom for all, the whole price is fully paid, every claim of God perfectly satisfied. And every sinner

that believeth will find redemption set forth now in Christ Jesus, the risen One, who is accepted on our behalf in the presence of God. Christ of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor. i. 30).

Hebrews ix. 12 shows its *eternal* character. Constantly in the Old Testament we read of the shedding of the blood of beasts; but such sacrifices could never put away a man's sins, nor give him a purged conscience. Every fresh sin required a fresh sacrifice. But Christ has come. By His death and blood shedding He has obtained *eternal* redemption for us, and has entered once for all into the holy of holies. The result of His finished work is that the poor failing sinner who believes from the heart on His blessed name, learns that his sins have been completely put away. Thus his conscience is purged, and he is perfected before God, who says to

him, " Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more " (Heb. x. 17). He enjoys *eternal redemption*.

Furthermore, the redemption which God has provided is so complete that, consequent upon the resurrection of Christ, the believer can look upon death and judgment as behind him, and await the return of Jesus as Saviour to redeem his body, and to introduce him into glory with Himself. Reader, what think ye of this blessed provision of God ? May He in His great grace give you to know now what it is to be redeemed to Himself by the precious blood of Christ.