



Sunday March 04, 2018
Receiving Redemption Benefits (Part-1)

Let's begin by reading a few Scripture passages:
Romans 5:12; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:20

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Colossians 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

We know that through Adam's sin the entire human race came under subjection to 'death'. This death is not just physical death, but refers to spiritual death and all its consequences. Spiritual death is to be alienated from God, from the life of God (Ephesians 4:17-18). When we are cut off from God, we are in 'death' - sin and all the consequences of sin hold us enslaved. We become slaves to sin and satan and all of the devil's works. sickness, diseases, poverty, torment of body and mind, evil - these were not part of God's original design for us.

However, through what Jesus did on the Cross, He redeemed us.

Redemption means to buy back.

It means to buy out of slavery and bring us into a place of freedom and glory.

Because of sin we were in bondage.

Once we personally receive the forgiveness of our sins through faith in Jesus Christ, we are redeemed.

We are delivered from the power of darkness.

We are transferred into God's Kingdom.

We are His purchased possession.

The devil has no more right over our lives.

In the spiritual realm we are in the Kingdom of God.

We are the redeemed of the Lord!

As the redeemed of the Lord, we must know the blessings or benefits that is ours.

We must learn how to walk in the redemption blessings.



In the natural realm, the world we live in, the devil and his demons try to keep us from walking in our redemption blessings.

They try to 'blind' us to what is really ours. Imagine a prisoner, he has been acquitted, the prison door is open, but he is blinded to that. He does not know that he can actually walk in freedom and so he sits inside the prison. So God's people need to be taught the truth.

The devil and his demons try to gain a foothold (entrance) into our lives by working on our flesh or the mind. But we must stand our ground, resist him (James 4:7) and give him no access (Ephesians 4:27).

So over the next few weeks we want to discover what our blessings are and how to receive our redemption blessings.

So today, let's understand our redemption blessings.

Everything Adam lost through sin, the Lord Jesus Christ regained and gave as a free gift to the redeemed.

Now we know that we enjoy part of the redemption now and part of the redemption we will receive in the future (Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:23). For instance our bodies will die physically. In the future we will have resurrected bodies.

The Fall, affected every sphere of life.

Even the ground (Adam's workplace) was cursed after the Fall.

We can therefore expect redemption blessings to affect every area of our lives.

There are 'spiritual blessings' - that affect our relationship with God, our identity in the spiritual realm, our righteousness, our authority over the enemy, etc.

There are 'natural blessings' - that affect our daily life on earth.

Even before the Cross, under the Old Covenant, God promised to bless the spiritual and natural life of His people.

He brought them out of Egypt once the Passover lamb had been killed - a type of redemption.

He gave them a blood covenant through Moses. A covenant is for relationship. A relationship of friendship, fellowship and intimacy.

He took them along on their journey to the Promised Land.

Let's just look at one passage that describes to us the blessings that God promised His people:

In Deuteronomy 28, we have two parts:

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 list out the blessings that God's people would experience if they stayed obedient to the covenant.



Deuteronomy 28:15-68 lists out the curses for disobedience - this contains all kinds of things: sickness, poverty, broken homes, etc. etc. All these are 'curses' or consequences of disobedience, not blessings!

Let's just read Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

Notice how the blessings/curses covered all areas of their natural life.

Now we understand that we are no longer under the Law - we are redeemed from the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13-14). Instead, the Bible says we have a better covenant based on better promises (Hebrews 8:6) and that the blessings of Abraham have come upon us. This is great news because we are under blessing not curses!

So what we wish to impress upon our hearts today is this:

We are people who have been redeemed.

We have redemption blessings that we can (and should) walk in!

Over the next few weeks, we will learn how to receive our redemption blessings.

Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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Receiving Redemption Benefits (Part-1)

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Romans 5:12; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Deuteronomy 28:1-14*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, What are some pictures/analogies/comparisons you can use to describe our redemption as believers. These can be Biblical or other.

#2, What do you understand as redemption blessings that God would want us to enjoy now in this life and what would be redemption blessings that God has kept for us in the future.

Pray for each other to be able to receive and enjoy redemption blessings.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.



FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.