

Series: Can We Trust Our Bibles?

Part Eight: "The Saving Work of God"

(The Doctrine of the Gospel of Salvation: Redemption)

John 3:3; Romans 8:30; LUKE 24:

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Bring it Home / Introduction: Good Morning Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Happy Lord's Day and Happy Resurrection Sunday. "HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

I've chosen to continue on with the "*Can We Trust Our Bibles*" Series because of God's holy providence. That God orchestrated this series to coincide with Palm Sunday, in the "*Call of God*," and now on Easter, Resurrection Sunday on the "*Plan, Process and Power of Redemption*." "*Redemption*", to be Redeemed, such a powerful word, rife with meaning and significance to us, for us on this holy day of holy days.

1. GOD CALLS US: (Foreknowledge, Predestination, Election) – John 3:1-3 Nicodemus / You and Me.

2. GOD REDEEMS US: (The Doctrine of Redemption) The word, '*Redeem*', *Redemption* is a fascinating word, in the Greek language of the New Testament. The essence of the word, to redeem, is essentially 'to buy back.' The biblical definition is a person sold into slavery who was bought back and brought back.

Every doctrine in Scripture, every word, verse, chapter and book, points to the apex of Christ. It is Him we preach. The crucified Christ. The Lamb of God. The Light of the World. The suffering Servant. The Righteous offering that was a propitious satisfaction for our sin. It all points to Christ.

- **THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION:** (Romans 8:28-30) The promise throughout the Old and New Testaments? The Biblical meaning of redemption is an innocent victim dying for the guilty, the condemned.

The entirety of both the Old Testament Scriptures and the New Testament Scriptures is about how God bought and brought people back from slavery. The slavery to sin and the bondage of Satan. The story of the Exodus, in the book of Exodus, we are introduced to a man called Moses, a type of Christ Himself, the Redeemer, who grew up as the son of Pharaoh, even though he was a Jew, an Israelite. The whole nation was enslaved under the cruel taskmasters of the Pharaoh and Egyptians. In (Exodus 20:1,2) **Redemption: Bought out, Brought out. (ek aggarrazo)**

How were people saved in the Old Testament? an innocent victim had to die for the guilty, the condemned. And so, an innocent animal had to be sacrificed as a covering for man's sin. It wasn't until Jesus came to John the Baptist, to be baptized in the Jordan River, that John said these words, "*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*"

Egypt is a type of the world and Pharaoh is a type of Satan. What did God do through his agent and servant Moses? He redeemed the Jewish people and nation out from under the hand of Pharaoh, a type of Satan, and out from under the land of Egypt, a type of the world. Do you see this, beloved, this is exactly what God is still doing today, He is redeeming us from the world and from under the thumb and oppressive control of Satan! The shackles are loosed, those in bondage are freed. You and I have been delivered into freedom. If Christ makes you free you are free indeed!

No amount of stepping up, stepping in, stepping out or stepping forward will save us. We must step down into humility and brokenness. Like Jesus the way up is down. To be willing to be last is to get to be put first. To lose our life is to win our life. To die is to live. Christ in us the hope of glory!

The Word of God tells us we were born dead in our trespasses and sins. We are depraved, fallen, degenerate, wholly incapable of knowing who we really are or what eternal danger and damnation we are really facing. We must look to Jesus, look to the Cross, look to the redeeming work of the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world.

We must look at our own sinfulness, wretchedness, fallenness, depravity and we must look to the Cross, look to Christ. We must hear again and again and again the Gospel message: The Good News of Salvation. The way up is down.

From Genesis to Malachi, (39) Old Testament books. From Matthew to Revelation, (27) New Testament books. Sixty-six books in all, written by forty men of God, over 1500 years on three continents - wrote the very words of God, the very breath of God, every word of God.

- **THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION:** (Read: **Galatians 3:10-14; 4:4-11**) **What is so remarkable for each one of us** this morning, as believers in the Risen Lord, is that all of this was planned, before the foundations of the world were laid, God knew it, God planned it, God decreed and executed His Sovereign plan right down to the last Roman nail on that exact felled tree. Every marvelous detail is part of the story of redemption. In the unfolding drama of redemption people were caught up in the story and most likely had no thought of how they were playing the exact role and part written for them by the Creator and Redeemer. You and I are a part of His Story: 'History.'
- **THE PROCESS OF REDEMPTION:** (Read: **Ephesians 1:1-14**) **We are Chosen by the Father, Redeemed by the Son and Sealed by the Holy Spirit.** All three Persons of the Trinity are at work in the process of redemption. It is a symphony of God's amazing grace. God is at work. Don't forget this on this Resurrection Sunday. Those He called those He justified and those He justified those He will glorify. What is this entire process? Redemption.
- **THE STORY OF REDEMPTION:** (**Luke 24:**) **I've added this point to our outline,** in case you are following because of how beautifully it follows from the first twelve verses of **Luke 24:**

Consider for a moment how downcast and absolutely ruined these followers of Christ were. Everything they had believed and thought they had understood had been ripped from their grasp. Their entire world had just been turned upside down and inside out. They were besides themselves with grief and fear. They had locked the doors; they had barricaded themselves inside for fear of retaliation and discovery. There was nowhere to go, to run, to hide. They only had one another to console each other. Don't you think they were continually talking out their frustrations? *'Where did we go wrong? What did we miss? What just happened?'* They needed someone to unfold and unpack the story for them. They were caught up in the drama, but ironically, they couldn't free themselves from it. Put yourself in their place.

So here we have two of the disciples on their way to Emmaus, about seven miles North West from Jerusalem. What are they doing? They are talking and reasoning, most likely anxious, perplexed, maybe even frustrated, attempting to put the pieces of the puzzle together in their minds and they just can't seem to make the pieces fit in anywhere. Remember, beloved, these men had been traveling with Jesus for three and a half years. They were with Him night and day. They had heard countless sermons and seen multitudes of miracles.

Verse 15: "Jesus Himself drew near." **Verse 16:** They didn't recognize Him for Jesus had hid Himself from them. Why? Possibly to get them to think for themselves, to draw the necessary conclusions for themselves, to connect the dots for themselves. **Verse 17:** Jesus asks them what they are talking about. He asked them why they were so sad. **Verse 18:** Again, put yourself in their place. They were incredulous, they were in shock that anyone, would still be in the dark over the news of the One: named Jesus of Nazareth, who was believed to be a Prophet, they had hoped He was the Messiah, they believed He might deliver them and redeem them from the oppression of the Roman Empire.

This blessed hope had been arrested, dragged before a kangaroo court, unjustly tried and convicted, beaten, shamed, humiliated, whipped mercilessly to the point of death. He had been mocked, spit upon, a crown of thorns pressed into His skull, He had become unrecognizable to the point of death. And then they cruelly stripped Him and laid Him on a prepared cross and nailed Him to it. All the while, His beloved disciples scattered like sheep without a shepherd.

'Where have you been', they said to this stranger? Verse 19-24: They begin to try and carefully explain who this Jesus Christ was. Maybe a bit annoyed He was so out of it to not have known what was a universal truth. Everybody knew it but, this Man. As the world had been turned upside down and inside out, they were besides themselves in grief and fear.

They locked the doors, they barricaded themselves in for fear of retaliation and discovery. There was nowhere to go, to run, to hide. They only had one another to consolation to. Don't you think they were continually talking out their frustrations? *'Where did we go wrong? What did we miss? What just happened?'*

As we read the story and consider the irony of what we've just read, we see it so clearly, so plainly. These men were in the dark because God the Holy Spirit chose to not reveal the truth to their thinking just yet. Think of it, beloved, how much do we depend on the Holy Spirit to illuminate His Word to our understanding. Then in **Verse 25, 26:** Jesus responds, *"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe, in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to have entered into glory?"* These men had been under the best teacher the world had to offer. They were under instruction for three and a half years. And yet, they were babies in their comprehension. Echoes of Nicodemus, in **John 3:10** *"Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?"*

Does this question seem familiar to our ears and hearts this morning? How is it possible to grow up in the Church, to be taught, Sunday after Sunday and still remain clueless as to what all of this means? Have we been present, have we been listening, have we been hearing, were we even alive and breathing, have we experienced and lived for ourselves the truths of these words and of this faith, we call Christianity, named after the very One we say we love and serve? Beloved, you and I are the world's best hope, if we can just get out of the way and let Christ shine through our broken clay pottery.

Verse 27: Beginning with Moses, the first five books of the Old Testament: The Pentateuch and all the Prophets, the rest of the Old Testament Jesus expounded to them throughout these passages all things concerning Himself. Listen carefully, if we walk one mile in approximately seventeen minutes, it would have taken 119 minutes, just under two hours, to walk the seven miles. This, beloved, was the greatest sermon, by the greatest Preacher, on the greatest subject ever given since time began. Last week we gave some high lights of some of the passages and subjects Jesus may have given on that seven mile walk to Emmaus. It takes approximately, forty hours to read the entire Old Testament. It's all God's Word, right? It's all good, right? Of course, it is, no doubt about it. But Jesus preached a sermon in just under two hours and He gave these men the mountain peaks without travelling down into the valleys between them.

What passages did He choose to speak of Himself? Select passages that dealt with the Jewish sacrificial system. He was the Lamb of God who had taken away the sins of the world. The blood of bulls and goats, lambs and turtle doves could only cover sin, the blood of Christ cleansed and removed as far as the East is from the West, our sin. Think of it, beloved... rivers of blood, lakes of blood, oceans of blood, for what purpose? *"Class? Class?"* **THE STORY OF REDEMPTION.**

Verses 28-31: Then their eyes were opened, and they 'knew' Him. There's that word again, that we looked at last Sunday, to know, (ginosko) **to know intimately**, and He vanished from their sight. Mission accomplished. All the pieces of the puzzle, all the hours of instruction, all the intimate and personal chats around the evening fire, all those moments came together, in a moment, like tumblers in a lock, everything fell into place and they saw Him for who He was and for what He had accomplished. It all made sense. It all was worth it. Their lives were forever changed, disrupted, moved, like an earthquake of understanding and enlightenment.

Verse 32: Worth the price of the investment of your time this morning on this Easter / Resurrection Sunday! *"And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"* Who else, honestly, can open the Scriptures to our understanding? Who is it that does that amazing work of illumination? Let's not get all high and mighty on one another. We're not all that! All of our wisdom apart from the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit is worthless and meaningless jabbering.

- **THE POWER OF REDEMPTION:** The Power of the Gospel: (Selected Scriptures)

The Regeneration of Forgiveness. Colossians 1:14

The Regeneration of Justification. Romans 3:24

The Regeneration of Adoption. Galatians 4:4,5

The Regeneration of being God's Possession. I Corinthians 6:20

The Regeneration of being God's People. Titus 2:14

The Regeneration of Purification. Titus 2:14

The Regeneration of Sealing. Ephesians 4:30

The Regeneration of our Inheritance. Hebrews 9:15

The Regeneration of Heaven's Expectation. Luke 21:28

The Regeneration of Heaven's Glory. Revelation 14:3,4

Take it Home / Moment of Decision: Do you want your heart to burn within your chest? Do you want that very same zeal for God and for His Word? How do you get it? By sitting on your couch watching sitcoms and game shows? By spending the majority of your time searching for things to fill the empty void of your heart. To pursue all the wrong things, in all the wrong places, with all the wrong people, with all the wrong motives. To what end? What must we do to be saved? And once saved sanctified? And in the process of sanctification on fire for the truth, for the Word, for Christ, for fellowship with other believers.

Frankly I get very worried and concerned when I hear believers say they are more satisfied and contented with unsaved, unregenerate people than with other believers. **WHAT? Really? What should be our collective response this morning? Whether in our homes, in our church, with our families, in the public square?**

“HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!”

Closing Prayer