

The Wednesday Word, Oct. 22, 2013: Redeeming Blood, Part 1

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Redemption in the ancient world was not a religious idea, but rather a commercial one. Redemption was a term that specifically dealt with the act of buying a slave from the slave market in order to give him freedom. The term used for 'redemption' in our text is 'apolytrōsis', which carries with it a notion of liberation by the paying of a price. Christ's amazing blood was the price paid, and it liberated us from the destruction of guilt and wrath.

To further understand biblical redemption, we should look at three other words associated with it in the New Testament. These words show us 3 distinct aspects of this great truth. The three words are,

1) Agorazo

This is a word which describes a purchase made. The Lord Jesus Christ went into the slave market of this world and bought and paid for us. Someone asks, "What did He use for currency?" That's an excellent question. It finds its answer in 1 Peter 1:18-19 which says, "Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

Furthermore, in Hebrews 9:12 we read, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Again in 1 Corinthians 7:23 we read, "You are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." What wonderful news this is for all of God's children. We have been bought by saving blood. Christ's blood is the currency of redemption. It has never suffered devaluation, and it never will.

2) Exagorazo

Our second word is Exagorazo. Notice how this is basically the same word as 'Agorazo'. It's agorazo with an 'ex' in front of it. 'Ex' means 'out of' or 'out from'. Think of the word Exit---it's the way out. So when this term Exagorazo is used, it means that not only were we purchased by blood but that we have been taken out of circulation and are no longer for sale. This is excellent. Such is the power of the blood that it has purchased us and taken out of the marketplace. We are bought with a price and thus removed from the control of both Satan and Sin. "(Galatians 3:13, Galatians 4:5).

3) Lutroo

This third word means to ransom, loose or to set free by paying a price. We have been bought---that's good news, we have been brought out of the slave market of sin and death ... that's better. But now we discover that the blood has ransomed and freed us to live for Christ. That's the best! We read in Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem (lutroo) us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (See also 1 Peter 1:18, Ephesians 1:7)

What a wonderful Saviour! What a mighty redemption! The term 'Saved' has become outmoded in many Christian circles. We are told it is an old fashioned word that puts people off. Such thinking is so very wrong. When we consider the redemption in Christ Jesus and see that it was His own blood that bought and paid for us, and see that He has taken us out of the market place of death and then see that he has set us free, we begin to realise that there is no better word to describe all of this than 'Saved'. Here's a hymn that sums it all up:

“Thank God I am free, free, free
From this world of sin,
I’ve been bought by the blood of Jesus,
And I’ve been born again
Hallelujah I’m saved, saved, saved
By His wonderful grace
The blood has been poured out,
He has brought me out
And shown me the way.”

And that’s the Gospel Truth!