

REDEEMED

The words in the Old and New Testaments for “redeem” or “redeemed” occur 158 times. The word for “redemption” occurs another 23 times.

Definition (Merriam-Webster Dictionary) - “to buy back; to win back; to free from captivity by payment or ransom.

Why was it even necessary?

- When Adam and Eve sinned, God’s curse followed, which included their physical and spiritual death (Genesis 3:19; Ephesians 2:1). They were banished from the Garden and from the tree of life (Genesis 3:23-24).
- Psalm 51:5, 58:3 and Romans 3:23 remind us, because of the “fall” in Genesis chapter 3, we are all sinful and fall short of God’s glory.
- But God created us for a loving, intimate relationship with Him. Out of His love, He alone had to pay the price to “buy us back” from the captivity of sin. To satisfy His perfect nature (holiness), the Payment had to include a very important qualification! It had to be perfect, flawless and acceptable in order to satisfy His perfect holiness (see Habakkuk 1:13a).
- The only Perfect Sacrifice was His one and only Son (a wonderful discussion on this is in Hebrews 10:1-18). So, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).
- Note that the “Law,” given through Moses, was never intended to be the source of our salvation but to lead us to Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:24). We can NEVER make our way to God by our good works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- Jesus became a “curse” for us to **redeem** us from the curse (Galatians 3:13-14).

Why did God bother?

Why would God go to all the trouble and pain to create us, give us a free will, allow us to walk away and still come after us (for those willing to freely accept the very costly Payment to “redeem” us)?

Answer: LOVE! (1 John 4:10; Ephesians 2:4).

In summary:

Our first parents (Adam and Eve) sinned. The human race was in a huge mess and all were, and are destined for hell. There is no one righteous, not even one (Romans 3:10). In order to be “redeemed,” the following was required:

- 1) An “Atoning Sacrifice” (Ransom) had to be made to satisfy God’s holy nature (1 John 4:10).
- 2) The Payment had to be Perfect without any defect (1 Peter 1:18-19).
- 3) The Payment had to cover all of mankind because we are all sinners (1 John 2:2).
- 4) Redemption could only come through One Perfect Payment alone (John 14:6; Hebrews 10:10).
- 5) The One and Only Perfect Sacrifice now has to be accepted (received) by faith in order to claim it (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:9-10). We are free to refuse it!
- 6) God then sees us, through Jesus Christ, as holy and free from accusation (Colossians 1:22).

Questions:

- 1) Are there ANY sins that you may have committed that you believe are too great to be redeemed? (Explain your answer in light of John 3:16)
- 2) Why and how do we sometimes feel and act as if our sins ARE too great to be redeemed?
- 3) How might you help others to come to the knowledge of God’s Gift of redemption that they too may be saved and be set free?

***Jesus paid the price we could not pay,
for a debt He did not owe***