

## Redeemed

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Mankind sinned; therefore, mankind was worthy of death as the wages, payday, of sin is death. Jesus redeemed us from the penalty, death, of sin. Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law, Galatians 3:13 by being made a curse FOR us through His action of crucifixion. As it is written, “. . .[C]ursed is everyone that hangs on a tree.”

I have had trouble trying to understand the full meaning of the word ‘redeem.’ I tried to grasp the concept of what redeem means when cutting a coupon from a page which has the words, “Redeem for \$0.25 off on your next (particular brand) purchase of Mayonnaise. Offer expires on \_\_\_\_\_.” So, the next time I go to the store and pick up the brand of Mayonnaise and go to the checkout counter. There, I give the clerk the money and the coupon expecting to get twenty-five cents off the cost of the product.

Nothing is free; someone has paid a price for everything ‘free.’ I see ads in magazines and newspapers and even the internet telling me I should take action to get the ‘free’ product; I only have to pay for the shipping, as the case may be; etc. The truth is someone had to pay the price whether the someone is a person or a corporation. What happened?

The person or corporation is willing to take less money, profit, for their product by giving me the opportunity to have to pay less so they may get the product into my hands and make money. The system is a win-win; the company sells their product and I pay less for it, and I reap the benefit. But wait, there is something more to this. What if the product being advertised with the redemption coupon does not appeal to me; that is, I do not want it, nor would I buy it. I am a guy and I would not redeem a coupon for fingernail polish; so, the redemption coupons target the different segments of society.

Not all coupons sent out with the redemption offer are actually used. What then? There are those who do use the coupon and benefit from the use of it not only for themselves, but their family or friends; etc., and they may also tell others of the great offer. There are people, I believe, who would not partake of the use of a redemption coupon in any event if it offers a distinct benefit; however, the company continues to advertise redemption coupons as there may be a time the one who sees the coupon may actually use what they see or have a need and remember they saw a coupon and then scour the newspaper, magazine or whatever to locate the coupon, give it to someone who needs the coupon or use it themselves. The offer of redemption is there for the taking.

What I began to see is this is a clear allegory, a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. The story of what Jesus did is enacted in our society and even the world, but is not readily perceived and understood.

We go back to the Garden of Eden. Adam has sinned and is confronted by God Himself. Note as we read the account, Adam *never did ask for help nor did he tell God he was sorry!* What

happened? God took the action and declared the promise of a savior even in front of the devil. *God* took the action. The answer to the problem with mankind through Adam is sin; Adam disobeyed God through rebellion, an act of open resistance to God and now the payment for that sin is death. So how does redemption or being redeemed fit into the picture?

God Himself, in the form of Jesus, bought us, mankind, back from death. Jesus redeemed the entirety of mankind from death through His redemptive work on the cross, Ephesians 2. His blood was spilled and His body was broken for both sin and health to redeem us from death.

There are people who lightly esteem the name of Jesus, but think about the following: Jesus presence and action on the cross carried such profound importance as to redeem, buy back, the entirety of humankind from their sinful condition both backward from His crucifixion and forward!

The allegory is mankind gives to mankind a coupon or other certificate which states in writing it may be redeemed for whatever is noted on the certificate; however, this illustration is limited in scope as it does not affect the entire world. What Jesus did has affected the entire world and in fact, speaking of a written certificate, according to Colossians 2:13-15, <sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

<sup>14</sup> Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; <sup>15</sup> And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Humankind is offered the opportunity to partake of the redemptive work of Jesus since the time Jesus went to the cross. Humankind has to hear and be taught that they have been redeemed from eternal death, and all they have to do is accept it and what He did on the cross. The handwriting held against us was in the spirit, where people do not see, but held against humankind it was; however, the blood of Jesus blotted out the writing held against them. His work has, again, affected all of humankind, not just a segment as in getting fingernail polish or Mayonnaise. Redemption is free to us, but it cost God His Only Son, Jesus, to go to the cross.

God took the action in the garden of Eden. God paid the price of Himself to buy us back from the enemy after Adam sold out. Jesus gave and gives a life free from sin and restored us to life eternal with Him. We are the redeemed.