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Faith Bible Church
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>
August 29, 2011



DAILY DOCTRINE: Redemption
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/redemption.pdf>

1. The doctrine of redemption was recognized in the Old Testament. It provided great encouragement for believers in times of stress: Job 19:25, *And as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.* The principle of redemption is bondage to the slavery of sin, and freedom from it, John 8:31-36.
2. Christ purchased our freedom from the Slave Market of Sin, cf. Psalm 34:22; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 1:18,19.
3. Redemption results in adoption as sons of God, Gal. 4:4-6.
4. Redemption is the basis of our eternal inheritance, Heb. 9:15.
5. The spiritual death of Jesus Christ is the payment for redemption, Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19.
6. Redemption is the basis for justification, Rom. 3:24.
7. Redemption includes positional forgiveness of all sins, Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14.
8. Redemption emphasizes the character of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Propitiation emphasizes the character of God the Father.
9. Because of redemption we can have peace of mind, stability, and a relaxed mental attitude.
10. God has paid for and provided everything in regard to our so great salvation, cf. 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
11. Redemption is related to unlimited atonement.
 - a. Unlimited atonement means that the work of salvation was accomplished for everyone. Limited atonement means that the work of salvation was only for the elect
 - b. The Bible very clearly teaches unlimited atonement. This means that God provided all of the various aspects of salvation (propitiation, justification, redemption, reconciliation) for every person—the believer and the unbeliever.
 - c. One of the clearest passages on unlimited redemption is 2 Peter 2:1, *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them,*

12. The false teaching of limited atonement has even made its way into a popular study Bible, *the MacArthur Study Bible*. Note MacArthur's comment on 2 Peter 2:1:
- who bought them. The terms which Peter used here are more analogical than theological, speaking of a human master over a household. The master bought slaves, and the slaves owed the master allegiance as their sovereign (for an OT parallel, see Deut. 32:5, 6, where God is said to have bought Israel, though they rejected Him). Doctrinally, this analogy can be viewed as responsibility for submission to God, which the false teachers had refused. Beyond this, they are probably claiming that they were Christians, so that the Lord has bought them actually and personally. With some sarcasm, Peter mocks such a claim by writing of their coming damnation. Thus, the passage is describing the sinister character of the false teachers who claim Christ but deny His lordship over their lives.*¹
13. Response to MacArthur's comment:
- a. The context makes it clear that Peter is telling his readers that Christ paid the price of redemption even for those who deny Christ the Lord and will experience certain judgment.
 - b. MacArthur's notes do not explain what the text says but rather what he wants to believe about the extent of atonement. He is inserting his opinion in the text of Scripture.
 - c. The text, 2 Peter 2:1 is clear: The word translated "bought" is from the Greek word *agorazō* which means to purchase or acquire by the paying of a ransom or price. In its classical use the word was used of the purchase of slaves in the slave market.
 - d. In this passage the great redeeming work of Christ extends even to false teachers who deny the Lord and thus are never saved.
 - e. Interestingly enough, this same word is used in speaking of believers who are said to be purchased by Christ's death, 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23.
 - f. Two things are of extreme importance in the 2 Peter passages.
 - 1) One is that the purchase price of redemption was paid by the Lord for even the false prophets and teachers, even though they quite obviously never accepted it.
 - 2) The other feature is that these for whom the purchase price was paid are heretics of the vilest sort, since they deny the only possible basis of salvation—the substitutionary atonement of Christ. They bring to the people "damnable heresies." In other words, these individuals, whoever they are, deny the substitutionary nature of Christ's death and thus endure eternal separation from God; yet they are the very ones for whom Christ paid the purchase price.
 - 3) The contrast in the passage is with their rejection of Christ and the love of Christ which paid for such a price in love for them.

In the Logos,

Pastor Don

¹John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word, 1997), 1955.