

Chapter 1

Redeemed

The Church is made up of God's people. If this be true, we must first be firmly grounded in our beliefs about who God is and what God is like.

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

A.W. Tozer

God is the _____ God

Isaiah 44:6 Thus says the Lord, The King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; **besides me there is no god.**'

God is _____

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, **the Creator of the ends of the earth.** He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

God is _____

Job 36:22-23 Behold, God is **exalted in his power**; who is a teacher like him? Who has prescribed for him his way, or who can say, 'You have done wrong'?

God is _____

Romans 11:33 ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and **wisdom and knowledge of God!** How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

God is _____

Leviticus 19:2 Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, "you shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am **holy.**"

If God is so big and good, however, why do things on Earth seem so bad?

If God is all good and all powerful and if he created all that there is, why is there need for what we call redemption?

The answer to this question is in something that we know all to well... **SIN.**

Redemption from _____

To become a member of God's church in general one must first be one of God's Redeemed people.

A MEMBERSHIP CLASS FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

You may have heard this question before, “Are you saved?” or “When did you get saved?” This Christian lingo stems from one of the most essential Christian beliefs – we need saving!

REDEMPTION

Redemption - The action of **salvation** or being saved. It can also mean the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment.

The Bible teaches that all pain, suffering, sickness, brokenness and death is a result of man’s decision to disobey God. It began with the first human beings in Genesis 3, but you and I have continued the pattern.

SIN

A violation of God’s will.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

JOINING TOGETHER

The Bible teaches again and again that we are all desperate sinners in need of salvation.

Romans 3:10-13 ¹⁰ as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

This sin is not something God can easily dismiss. The frightening consequence of sin is that we are separated from God and are deserving of the due punishment – eternal, physical, and spiritual death.

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 9:27 - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the **judgment**

Redemption in _____ alone

With the entire world being sick with the infection of sin, God put into motion a plan for redemption through His Only Son, Jesus the Christ. In the darkness of the bad news, Jesus Christ is the good news.

CHRIST

Christ is not Jesus' last name. It is an official title given to Jesus in the New Testament signifying his office as the anointed Savior.

There are a couple large words in Romans 3:23-25 that summarize what Jesus did for His people.

Romans 3:23-25 ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are **justified** by his grace as a gift, **through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be received by faith.

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is our _____. This means that God declares sinners righteous in the sight of God because of Christ's sacrifice

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is our _____.

This is the act of appeasing God's wrath with an offering of substitution. Having never sinned, Jesus willingly died the death we deserved to die.

Romans 5:6-9 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—
⁸but God shows his **love** for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross shows God's _____ for us

The Scriptures are clear that God's plan to make the world right again was to send his Son, Jesus, to take all the punishment for sin on himself, but the miracle of Jesus is that he did not stay dead. He defeated both sin and the consequences of sin!

Jesus' resurrection proves Jesus' authority to give _____

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is a testimony that the penalty of sin and death itself has been defeated and that eternal life is now available to all people!

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

God's plan to redeem his people from sin is through Christ alone, but what part do we play? How do we receive this salvation?

This is perhaps the most important question and it is the major dividing line between Protestants and Catholics. How would you describe how one can be saved from their sins?

Redemption by _____ alone

It is impossible to offset our bad deeds by doing more good deeds.

To stand before God and to offer good deeds to offset our bad deeds would be like being on trial for robbing a bank and then asking the judge to simply let us go free because of all the times we gave to charity.

It is impossible for the spiritually dead to make themselves spiritually alive by their own power of doing good things.

Ephesians 2:4-9 ⁴ **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—**by grace** you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his **grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For **by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

God gives spiritual life to the spiritual dead out of the abundance of his grace – his undeserved favor. This is not something that can be earned by good works. It is completely a gift of God. Only God will receive the glory in eternity for our salvation.

Redemption through _____ alone

Romans 3:22 - This righteousness is given **through faith** in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, he gave his only son, so that whosoever **believes in him** will not perish.

Romans 10:9 - because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved

The Bible is clear that Jesus' offer of salvation is for those who put faith in Him.

A MEMBERSHIP CLASS FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

This faith is not an empty belief. It is a deep-rooted belief that leads to repentance – the turning away from sin and the following of Jesus. Jesus summarized it simply when he approached his disciples for the first time saying, “follow me.”

But if this grace is so good and we don't have to do anything to earn it, what keeps Christians from going on and sinning all they want? Is free forgiveness not just a license to sin more?

The apostle Paul recognized that this would be the question that some would ask.

Romans 6:1-5 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Redemption _____ Christ alone

Many people view salvation as merely a salvation *from something*, but it is also a salvation *to something*.

Through faith we enter a relationship with God in which he supernaturally changes us from what we once were.

To be saved is to be spiritually _____

John 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one **is born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

1 Peter 1:3-4 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to **be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Titus 3:5-6 ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

To be saved is to go from spiritual _____
to _____

Romans 6:11 ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and **alive to God** in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:5 ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

To be saved is to be made _____

1 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.


How do we really know who has been redeemed? How do we truly know who has put faith in Jesus?

The truly saved are recognized by their _____

Matthew 7:16-20 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 **Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.**

1 John 3:9-10⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

While the above passages do not indicate that Christians never sin, they do argue that true Christians are characterized by their love and obedience to God. Salvation changes everything.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE - WRITE OUT YOUR TESTIMONY

This lesson has unpacked the essentials of what we call the “gospel” – the good news of salvation through Jesus

Everyone who has been saved by this gospel, has a story of how they came to be saved by this gospel. When was this for you? What is your testimony of how you came from spiritual death to spiritual life? Your testimony is a powerful tool in sharing the gospel with others.

The challenge this week is for you to write out your testimony. Write out where you were without Jesus, how you came to faith in Jesus and what He has done in your life since.

If you cannot identify a time where you placed your faith in Jesus, then truly examine yourself whether you have been “born again” into a relationship with God and talk with a member of our church who can help you navigate what this might mean for your life.

