

The Gift of Redemption

It was about 1446 years before Christ, when the Israelite slaves in Egypt called upon the Lord for mercy. God told Moses,

*I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel... I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, I will **redeem** you... I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God.* Exodus 6:5-7

To **redeem** means to release one from his burdens, to *deliver* the slaves in Egypt.

Our problem is that we are slaves to our own desires. Why do we eat or drink more than we should, because we want to. Why do we gossip about the faults of others, because we enjoy it. The thief steals because he desires more wealth. We are all slaves to our desires and are guilty under God's law.

No one can free himself from God's judgment and eternal condemnation. But God who showed mercy and **redeemed** the Israelite slaves also has mercy on repentant sinners. God does not desire the death of the wicked. The prophet Isaiah wrote,

*A **Redeemer** will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the Lord.* Isaiah 59:20

*When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those who were under the law.* Galatians 4:4-5

*God has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins.* Colossians 1:13-14

In Holy Baptism we received the Holy Spirit, faith and the blessings of Christ's **redemption**. We are free from condemnation and Satan's control. Even though we may still be enticed by Satan, the Spirit gives us power to say "no" when tempted. And with the help of the Spirit they must also struggle against our sinful desires. Paul fought this same inner battle. We lamented,

I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing... I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Romans 7:19, 23

Paul was free from captivity to Satan, but not from his sinful flesh. Again Paul wrote,

*We groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the **redemption** of our bodies.* Romans 8:23

On the last day, the day of **redemption** (Ephesians 4:30), Christ will raise us with glorified bodies, free from the desires of the flesh, totally sanctified by the Spirit to live forever with Lord. Jesus told His disciples,

*Raise your heads, because your **redemption** is drawing near.* Luke 21:28

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