

Abundant Redemption

Text: Psalm 130; Matthew 26.26–29

Theme: The redemption we receive through Jesus Christ is overwhelmingly abundant

Introduction — it was May of 2001 when Martin & Garcia Burnham were taken hostage

- they spent one year as hostages, trying to survive
- sadly, Martin died shortly before they were rescued
- during the entire ordeal, they still sought to live for Christ
- Gracia wrote a book about this ordeal: *In the Presence of My Enemies*
- in a second book, she speaks of God's presence & grace in life after coming home
- she was now a widow, a single mother, and yet a somewhat famous missionary/sufferer
- she spoke openly about the heartache, the struggles, the joys and the hopes
- none of it was easy; all of it was hard
- being a hostage, she said, was a terrible ordeal; they knew they might not live through it

If not for Christ, we'd all be in the same situation

- hostage to sinful desires, walking according to the beat of this world's drum
- we, apart from Christ, are all captive to the power of the prince of the air
- there is no hope, no light, no possibility of freedom
- every single one of us stood...or still stands...in great need of redemption

Redemption — it's a marvelous word for the Christian

- it signifies a ransom that has been paid
- it tells us we've been purchased out of slavery
- there is delivery from oppression and fear
- there is a process to this also
- strict price is laid down, liberty is granted, rescue completed, and the exchange finished

Describes us perfectly

- we were fallen, guilty, under the penalty of death
- we had been conquered, sold under sin, in bondage to our sinful desires
- each of you were captive, carried away, imprisoned with no hope of escape
- everyone is under the wrath of God, awaiting judgment & the execution of the sentence
- and worst of all: you and I are unable to do anything about it

This is also why redemption describes Christ our Deliverer perfectly

- Deliverer
- Ransom
- Galatians 4.5 tells us that He **“redeems those who were under the law”**
- Titus 2.14 informs us that He **“...gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed”**
- He redeemed us by His blood
- we are justified through redemption
- and Christ has won for us eternal redemption

The Old Testament pointed to this

- all the sacrifices were but a shadow of this great blood price paid

Psalm 130 — hear the sin-burdened soul crying out

- he knows his guilt, she knows her condemnation
- yet there is the hope of forgiveness and so the psalmist waits upon God
- Hope is the Lord — why?
- because of His lovingkindness, His covenant love and promise
- because of His plentiful, abundant redemption
- oh, that we would grasp the great fullness & plenty in this redemption
- but why is it so abundant and plentiful, as we read in v. 7?

Give you six reasons why God's redemption is so abundant —

First, His redemption is plentiful...

I. BECAUSE OF THE GREATNESS OF THE RANSOM PAID

- the greater the price, the greater the certainty for deliverance
- “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” 1 Peter 1.18–19
- there is nothing more valuable than this
- by His perfect obedience, Christ took our place
- His agonies, His sufferings, His death: all of inestimable value
- I hope you have wondered, at times, what could release you from the depths of sin
- then, I hope you recalled the truths of Scripture
- there is this greatness, this fullness of the price paid: Christ Himself
- He is infinite, invaluable, incomparable, complete, sufficient, perfect
- **through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, thus securing an eternal redemption — Hebrews 9.12**

The second reason this redemption is so plentiful is...

II. BECAUSE OF THE DEPTHS OF DEPRAVITY FROM WHICH IT SAVES US

- you and I were in bondage completely; we couldn't break out or escape
- it wasn't just one chain or a single dungeon: multiple chains and cell doors holding us
- there was penalty upon penalty
- distress, trials, hardships, frustrations, agonies, pains: all mounting up
- but plentiful is His redemption, we see here before us
- we are released from the bitterness of unforgiveness
- released from the fear of death and wrath of God
- set free from the torment of sin and evil and Satan
- His redemption of each one of us is full, complete, perfect, plentiful, abundant
- apart from Christ, death without hope awaits all who will not believe
- judgment and exposure to the wrath of God for eternity
- the torments of hell will be yours forever
- but we've been delivered and the depravity of sin holds us no more!

The reasons continue, why His redemption is so abundant...

III. BECAUSE IT INTRODUCES US TO ALL THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S GOODNESS

- it is one thing to be released from prison
- it is another thing completely to be welcomed into the palace of the king
- all that is good is now ours
- all that is purchased in our redemption is ours

- and this isn't just some good
- forgiveness: that's good
- no guilt: that's good
- but there's more: justified, righteousness of Christ placed upon us, new life in Christ Jesus, God the Spirit abides with us, God is working in us, upon us, and for us
- He will present us spotless someday before the Father
- all the promises of God in Christ are now "Amen! So be it!" And for us
- this present life, as a believer is great and marvelous
- yet there is a future that awaits
- we'll be shown the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus
- right now, your holiness is in progress, but then it will be complete
- right now, the transformation is ongoing, but then, you and I will see Him face to face
- we'll be like Him, as He is!
- there is abundant good to us in this abundant redemption

We now see how abundant is this redemption...

IV. BECAUSE OF ITS ENDURING NATURE

- there is a never-ending flowing fountain
- the psalmist speaks of it as being given to drink at the river of His delights
- eternal redemption, it is called in the book of Hebrews
- how long is eternity? Add all the ages, multiple by the total & it will still go on
- yet it isn't so much a timeless timeline to be measured as it is the kind of eternity we'll know
- it will be a sinless eternity, spent with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
- it's nearly impossible to even comprehend in our finite, time-limited existence now
- but it is ensuring and pure, this abundant redemption in Christ

A fifth reason can be added to these others, as to why this redemption is so plentiful...

V. BECAUSE ITS ABUNDANCE REACHES TO THE FORGIVENESS OF ALL SINS

- it matters not how intense or numerous our sins were
- like the prodigal son, in Jesus' parable, we'll come home
- we'll be received, welcomed, rejoiced over, and find ourselves under the love of our Father
- v. 8 of our Psalm tells us that we are redeemed from ALL our iniquities
- sin is our biggest problem
- and unless it is removed, or left unsolved, we're still captive to it
- but complete and plentiful and abundant is our redemption in Christ Jesus
- **"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."**

Isaiah 1.18

- **"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."**

1 John 1.7

- **"For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."**

Jeremiah 31.34

- there is no sin too large or too small
- you can't have too many if His grace calls out to you
- if you come to Him, there is no such thing as the unpardonable sin
- if you reject Him & His redemption, well, only then can you not be forgiven
- but you bring your sins to the fount of healing

- you dive in and find the fullest redemption is there, full and free
- and if His redemption is enough, complete and enough for the saints in Scripture
- then it is great enough, complete enough for you and me
- **“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”**

1 Timothy 1.15

- Paul once arrested, persecuted and had Christians put to death
- if Christ’s redemption is enough for him, it is enough for you and me

Finally, the sixth reason this redemption is so plenteous is...

VI. BECAUSE OF THE FREENESS OF THE OFFER

- imagine if this summer, the Minnesota State Fair announced something like this:
- all our food vendors will feed you for free
- there wouldn’t be an attendance record left unbroken
- everyone would be making the attempt to get there and sample...
- deep-fried alligator, Buzz’n Hot Honey Chicken Sausage Kebob on a stick
- cake on a stick, pork chop on a stick, deep-fried snickers on a stick
- deep-fried Oreos, deep-fried pickles, deep-fried...well, whatever you can fry & put on a stick
- and let’s not forget Sweet Martha’s chocolate chip cookies
- all free! (Now don’t go there late summer and tell them your pastor said it was free!)
- but that’s the gospel: grace is given freely and lavished upon us freely
- **“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”**

Isaiah 55.1

- the gospel is a free offer
- you can’t earn it, pay for it, be good enough for it
- you can’t work hard enough long enough for it
- **“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”**

Romans 3.23–24

- **“O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.”**

Psalms 130.7

- it is free
- the robe of Christ’s righteousness is hung out for us to receive and wear
- you may marvel at the awfulness of your sin, but marvel even more at the redemption of Christ
- **“to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”**

Ephesians 1.6

- **“O [Albion], hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.”**

Psalms 130.7

Conclusion – Come & receive & rejoice in this abundant redemption

- come to this table to celebrate & rejoice in His abundant redemption
- be reminded of the high price: His body and blood
- be reminded that it is free; His sovereign grace did this work for us
- come and feed upon His grace

- come and increase your faith in this grace
- let your delight in Him grow
- have your dependence upon Him multiply
- be strengthened and hope in Him

Because with Him is plenteous redemption!