

**Have We Lowered the Standard of Redemption?**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

- \* We have said time and time again that to many salvation is merely a “ticket to heaven!”
  - \* Many believe that redemption is all about our life “after death!”
  - \* While that is actually a “true statement,” its not entirely what is meant by most people!!
  - \* Many imply that salvation is about some “future heavenly state!”
  - \* It is actually about your “life after death” in that it is about your new life in Christ after you are buried with Him and raised to newness of life!
  - \* Paul said to Galatia, “I am crucified with Christ; however, I am still living because He is living through me!”
  - \* Redemption is so much about relationship that it is compared to the husband/wife relationship!
  - \* Then Paul says this;  
Ephesians 5:27 (TPT)  
27 All that he does in us is designed to make us a mature church for his pleasure, until we become a source of praise to him—glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw.
- I. This new relationship with The Lord is about CHANGE in our lives!
    - A. When we submit to following The Lord Jesus we are actually submitting to a new way of living!

Romans 6:1-4 (NLT)

1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

1. Does that sound like a “ticket to heaven?”
2. Does that sound like “joining a church?”
3. Does that sound like “following a religious belief?”

B. To me that sounds like a totally new way to live!

II. You see, we have so “lowered the standard” of redemption !!!

Romans 6:5-8 (NLT)

5 Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. 8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

A. We have got to began to think about the “life of God” affecting MY LIFE NOW!

1. This is why we have been studying The Sermon on the Mount!

2. Jesus was so clear about how His Kingdom life is so radically contrary to the world!
  3. When you come to the Lord EVERYTHING CHANGES!
  4. Not just your destination!
- B. This new life in Christ is so radical the Lord knew we could not live it in our own power and ability!
1. Therefore He EMPOWERED US BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT!
  2. We must begin to accept and understand this life of salvation!
  3. It is a “marriage” and a “relationship” with God Himself!
- C. All throughout scripture we see the analogy of a bride and bridegroom as it related to our relationship with our Lord Jesus!

Revelation 21:2 (NLT)

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

1. Have we prepared and ready with oil like the ten virgins?
  2. Are we “keeping ourselves” for Him and Him alone?
  3. Are we living lives as “chaste virgins” and “keeping” ourselves for Him?
- III. Are you controlled by the world and life in the world or are you controlled by your love and passion for Him?

Romans 6:9-14 (NLT)

9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. 10 When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. 12 Do not let sin control the way you live;[a] do not give in to sinful desires. 13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. 14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

- A. It is so clear that The Lord broke the power of sin but our choices allow the control of God or sin in our lives!
  - 1. We are slaves to whom we serve; Either sin or God!
  - 2. Notice verse 13; "give yourselves to God"...or not!
  
- B. Over and over we see Paul speak of "sanctification," "being set apart" or "giving yourself" to the Lord!

1 Corinthians 1:2, 30 (NLT)

2 I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.