

THE BOOK OF ROMANS  
"Redemption in Christ"  
Romans 3:24

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INTRODUCTION

1. One of the greatest paragraphs in Scripture is Romans 3:21-31. It records how glorious our salvation is by grace through faith in the work of Christ.
2. The initial study on the text demonstrated that justification is without a cause (freely). Its spring or efficient cause is God's infinite grace. Justification, moreover, is not only forgiveness, but a positive declaration of righteousness.
3. The ground or basis for justification is the work of Christ in redemption. Now, redemption may be understood in the following ways:-

1. WORDS USED

Semantics are important. The English word "redeem" has a prefix "re" meaning "again," e.g. re-copy, re-write, etc. The word is used in the pawn shop and in financial circles. Scripture (N.T.) employs three Greek words to express the concept of redemption:

a. Purchase 1 Cor. 6:20

The Greek verb here is the common one for marketing. The archaeologist's spade has uncovered many market-places where commerce was conducted. That Christ should have purchased (redeemed) sinners from the slave market of sin would be an idea completely understandable.

b. Removed Gal. 4:5

The verb here adds a prefix to the root verb for purchase. This prefix denotes buying something out of the market. It shows that there is no resale and the slave of sin is off the market forever! Doctrinally this is what is commonly referred to as "eternal security." This is the Scriptural doctrine of the safe guarantee provided for all the redeemed (Rom. 8:38, 39).

c. Delivered Rom. 3:24

The root for the noun employed here means to loose, untie, deliver. The idea of freedom is basic (cf. Rev. 1:5). The term is used in the N.T. to express the deliverance effected through the death of Christ from the retributive wrath of a Holy God and the merited penalty of sin.

NOTE: The above three Greek words therefore teach that a believer is: 1. Purchased, 2. Purchased and not for

resale. 3. Purchased and free!

## 2. PRICE

While not stated here, elsewhere it is indicated that the blood of Christ is the price paid for sin (1 Pet. 1:18, 19). Tied in with the thought of purchase, believers are "peculiar." That word derives from the Latin for cattle, the common pricing structure for the day i.e. value in cattle, not coins. Interestingly, we are peculiar (cow value or worth) as believers. (1 Pet. 2:9). Paul uses the same Greek word to show we are a valuable people, worth a great price (Eph. 1:14). What glorious truth--redemption makes us valuable due to the infinite price paid, the blood of Jesus Christ.

## 3. IDEA ILLUSTRATED

The O.T. book Hosea illustrates redemption. The prophet's wife bore three children and then left to become a harlot. She ended up at a slave market. At this point, Hosea is instructed to follow a path summarized by three words:

### a. Love 3:1

Here is the significance to "so" loved in John 3:16. This is incomprehensible love--for Hosea is told to love his wife who is a harlot now standing on a slave market. This act refers to the first Greek word above--purchase.

### b. Buy 3:2

Hosea is then told to remove his wife from sale on the market. Nothing is so touching as this. The price is one-half the value of a slave (cf. Ex. 21:32). The food offered is but one day's ration for a slave. This is the second Greek verb above.

### c. Abide 3:3

This is the climax of the episode. Here, Hosea restores his wife and with three powerful "thou's" declares the relation to himself. She is free! The final burst of love is in the phrase "so will I also be for thee." This is equivalent to the third Greek word above.

## 4. PERSON INVOLVED

All indicated in redemption is "in" Christ (Messiah) Jesus (Saviour). This is saying, because He is Messiah, Jesus is the Redeemer (Mt. 1:21; Acts 4:12; 10:43). Blessed be His Name.

CONCLUSION It is true that God saves us while still in our sins, but the purpose is to save us from our sins--to set us free (holiness). This freedom is from the penalty of sin (guilt), from the power of sin (mastery) and ultimately from the presence of sin (heaven). Can you say, God has declared me righteous without any cause in me, by His grace, through redemption that is in Christ Jesus?