

Grace-energized Minds: Adopted, Redeemed, and Sanctified Titus 2:5

Communion is when we gather to honor our Lord's command, "This do in remembrance of Me" (1 Cor. 11:24–25). The word translated "remembrance" means much more than "do this in memory of". The word carries the idea of our present participation in a past event.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." NKJV

This Supper reminds us of the unity of Christ's church. He says that we are "one loaf" (1 Cor. 10:17). Tonight when we eat from this supper we do so with every other believer on earth. We celebrate as parts of one loaf. Parts of that loaf are here in Tulsa, others scattered across the other 49 countries—and even more scattered around the world. We are one with them as represented by that one loaf.

1 Corinthians 10:17 For we, though many, are one bread (loaf NIV) and one body; for we all partake of that one bread (loaf NIV). NKJV

It is "The Lord's Supper" (1 Cor. 11:20), and we must never forget it is His Supper for all of His body. This celebration is not the exclusive property of any one Christian denomination, local church, or group. Each time we share in the Supper, we are identifying with all true believers everywhere. And that is why we are always to be reminded of our obligation to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

"For the Hebrew to remember, meant much more than simply to bring something to mind, merely to recall that it happened. To truly remember is to go back in one's mind and recapture as much of the reality and significance of an event or experience as one possibly can. To remember Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross is to relive with Him His life, agony, suffering, and death as much as is humanly possible. When we partake of the Lord's Supper we do not offer a sacrifice again; we remember His once-for-all sacrifice for us and rededicate ourselves to His obedient service".¹

¹MacArthur, John F., *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, (Chicago: Moody Press) 1983.

That is our goal this evening. Recapture with me what you know to be true, what you believe about Christ's death, and what is yours because you are in Him! To begin, we need to start at the place it all happened—the Cross of Jesus Christ!

#185 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Author: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Musician: Edward Miller, 1731-1807

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Tonight we need to start this communion as we all rededicate our hearts to Christ's Supremacy, our minds to His control, our bodies as His dwelling place, and our time as our offering back to Him. To do that, join me in a remembrance of Him.

Start by bowing your head and thinking of the 3-4 worst sins you have ever committed or the most horrible besetting sins in your life: the ones you hope no one will ever know about.

Then, lift your eyes Heavenward and quietly in your heart thank Jesus Christ for completely forgiving you of all of those deep dark stains, and for erasing the record that you ever even did them.

Let that settle in for a moment. You have now done what God asks you to do at His Table—you have remembered Christ's justifying, forgiving, regenerating, reconciling death for your sins. To that we can hardly respond except to say, I am undeserving, and unworthy, but very grateful.

203 And Can It Be?

Author: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Musician: Thomas Campbell, 1777-1844

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above—
So free, so infinite His grace—
Humbled Himself in matchless love
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Focus on your Adoption

Because of our sin—we are all strangers to God; so we need adoption.

Jesus who died to take strangers and make them part of the family—**that's adoption!** A Sinner stands before God as a stranger and is called a Son by His choice.

In Adoption we go from being a stranger and an outsider to being His son or daughter and in partnership with Him!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has taken me from being a stranger outside of His presence and blessing and has made me his child and the son and daughter of His family in partnership with Him².

- *John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name". Because I was adopted by God—I am God's child. Say that aloud with me*

#282

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain
And cleansed by His blood
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod
For I'm a part of the family
The family of God

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² *John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly". Because I was adopted by God—I have abundant life. Say that aloud with me; John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you". Because I was adopted by God—I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life. Say that aloud with me; Romans 8:17 "... and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together". Because I was adopted by God—I am an heir of God, and co-heir with Christ. Say that aloud with me; Ephesians 1:5 "... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." I have been adopted by God. Say that aloud with me; Philippians 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ". Because I was adopted by God—I am a citizen of heaven. Say that aloud with me*

- *John 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life". Because I was adopted by God—I have everlasting life. Say that aloud with me*

202 Amazing Grace!
 John Newton, 1779
 "A Collection of Sacred Ballads," 1790

Amazing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we've first begun.

- *Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose". Because I was adopted by God—**God is working everything in my lifetime out for His good.** Say that aloud with me*

47
 Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
 God will take care of you;
 Beneath his wings of love abide,
 God will take care of you;

God will take care of you;
 Through ev'ry day, o'er all the way;
 He will take care of you,
 God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
 God will take care of you;
 When dangers fierce your path assail,
 God will take care of you.

All you may need he will provide,
 God will take care of you;
 Trust him and you will be satisfied,
 God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test,
 God will take care of you;
 Lean, weary one, upon his breast,
 God will take care of you.

- *Romans 8:29 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren". Because I was adopted by God—I am being conformed into Christ's likeness. Say that aloud with me*

#387

*O to be like Thee, Blessed Redeemer
This is my constant longing and prayer
Gladly I'll forfeit all of Earth's treasures
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear*

*O to be like Thee
Full of compassion, Loving, Forgiving
Tender and Kind
Helping the helpless , Cheering the fainting
Seeking the wandering sinner to find*

*O to be like Thee, While I am pleading
Pour out Thy Spirit, Fill with Thy Love
Make me a temple meet for Thy Dwelling
Fit me for Life and Heaven above.*

~CHORUS~

*O to be Like Thee, O to be Like Thee
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou Art
Come in Thy sweetness,
Come in Thy Fullness
STAMP THINE OWN IMAGE
DEEP ON MY HEART*

Written By Thomas O. Chisolm

Focus on your Redemption

Because of our sin—we are all slaves to unrighteousness; so we need redemption.

Jesus died to take slaves and make them freed forever—**that's redemption!** A Sinner stands before God as a slave and is granted freedom by Christ's payment.

Christ's death to pay the price of our sin is so wonderful that we, the redeemed of all the ages will be joined by the angels so that together we may sing a new song, as Revelation records:

Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and

blessing!" NKJV

In Redemption we go from being a slave chained to our sins to complete freedom by God and a new focus.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has liberated us from our slavery to sin, broken sins chains that long had enslaved us and freed us to focus our lives on what really matters to Him.

- *1 Corinthians 6:20 "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's".* Christ bought me with a price—**I belong to God.** Say that aloud with me

511 Now I belong to Jesus

Jesus, my Lord will love me forever,
From Him no pow'r of evil can sever,
He gave His life to ransom my soul;
Now I belong to Him;

Once I was lost in sin's degradation,
Jesus came down to bring me salvation,
Lifted me up from sorrow and shame,
Now I belong to Him;

Joy floods my soul for Jesus has saved me,
Freed me from sin that long had enslaved me
His precious blood, He came to redeem,
Now I belong to Him;

Chorus

Now I belong to Jesus,
Jesus belongs to me,
Not for the years of time alone,
But for eternity.

- *Philippians 1:6 "...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ".* Because Christ bought me in redemption—**God will finish what He started in me.** Say that aloud with me

I will trust you to the end of my life Psalm 71 and 92

- Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”. Because Christ bought me in redemption—**I am God's workmanship**. Say that aloud with me

#358 Draw Me Nearer

Author: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Musician: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Refrain:

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

Oh, the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with Friend!

There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee.

I offer my life back to you; I want to do your will; I want to follow your plan that you designed me for

Focus on your Sanctification

Because of our sin—we are all defiled; so we need sanctification.

Jesus died to take our soiled and misdirected lives that always get wasted and make

them clean, focused and fruitful—**that’s sanctification!**

In Sanctification we go from our formerly wasted and empty life to holy purposeful life.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has come into me and taken over my wasted life and made me new, entered my empty life and filled it with Himself to make me holy and filled with His purposes more and more until He gets me Home³.

- *1 Corinthians 3:16* "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—**I am God's temple.** Say that aloud with me

262 Holy Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.
Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

I want to be a priest serving you as in a holy temple

- *Ephesians 1:1* "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus". Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—**I am a saint.** Say that aloud with me

³ Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am Christ's personal witness. Say that aloud with me; Romans 8:35 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I will never be separated from the love of God. Say that aloud with me; Ephesians 2:18 "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father". Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. Say that aloud with me; Colossians 3:12 "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering". Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I can wear Christ's love every day. John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you". Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I have been chosen by God to bear fruit. Say that aloud with me; Ephesians 1:13 "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, you are marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit". Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am sealed and marked by the Spirit of God. Say that aloud with me

- *2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind".* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—**I never need to fear again.** Say that aloud with me

Start a New Spiritual Exercise

Satan is the Accuser and wants us to only remember all the many times we have fallen; Satan delights in the days, weeks, or months he can keep us condemning ourselves for what we've done. That is his plan, so don't fall for it. Resist Satan as you believe the truth; speak the truth; and preach the Gospel to yourself.

And when ever we fall down, God says to just turn back to Him and repent right then. Don't wallow in your pain and guilt and punish yourself, confessing our sin immediately-- and believe that what God has promised in His salvation. We are forgiven, justified, regenerated, reconciled, adopted, redeemed, and sanctified. That makes us precious in His sight, special in His plan.

One of the most powerful habits you could grow is to take this list of the ramifications of having received the gift of salvation!

Keep this list in your Bible, at home, on your computer, put one on your mirror where you start your day, and in your car. Where ever you need to keep reminding yourself of what great things God has promised and done through Christ's death for us!

Slowly as you understand and lay hold on these truths a life-changing transformation take place in our minds, and then in our emotions, and finally throughout our entire life as we live each day based on God's eternal truth.

The rest of the Story of our Salvation

Focus on your Forgiveness

Because of our sin—we are all debtors to God's Righteousness; so we need forgiveness.

In Forgiveness we go from a life hopelessly stained by sin to the peace of complete forgiveness.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God is a God who offers His children complete forgiveness. Trace with me again those life giving words in your hearts as I read them to you.

Then repeat the truth of what God has done!

- "... as far as the east is from the west, **so far has he removed our transgressions from us**". (Psalm 103:12). **God said all my sins are gone.** Say that aloud with me.
- "Come now, and 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 be as wool.**" (Is. 1:18). **I am white as snow in God's sight.** Say that aloud with me.
- "For I will forgive their wickedness and **will remember their sins no more.**" (Jeremiah 31:34b). **God has forgotten all my sins.** Say that aloud with me.
- "She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**" (John 8:11). "There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1). **Jesus will never condemn me for my sins.** Say that aloud with me.

Celebrate your forgiveness that is only in Christ.

Focus On your Justification

Because of our sin—we are all guilty convicts in God's sight; so we need justification.

Jesus died to take guilty convicts and destroy any record that that ever committed a crime and takes their place in the punishment—**that's justification!** A Sinner stands before God as accused and is declared righteous by His imputed righteousness.

In Justification we go from being accused and guilty before God to being righteous and with no record of wrongs!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has once and for all through Christ's sacrifice justified us. That means that He has accused us, declared us guilty of sin and then made us righteous and forever deleted the record of all our wrongs⁴.

- *Romans 8:33-34* "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us." I have been justified and by Christ justifying me and because the record has been erased —**I am free now & forever from condemnation.** Say that aloud with me
- *1 Corinthians 6:17* "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him." By Christ justifying me—**I am forever united with the Lord.** Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 1:4* "... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love". By Christ justifying me—**I was chosen by Jesus to be holy and blameless in his sight.** Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 2:6* "...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus". By Christ justifying me—**I am already seated with Christ in Heaven.** Say that aloud with me

Renewing a God-Controlled Mind

The best way to get your mind back under God's control is to think the truth. Our minds, guarded-by-God was assured of the past, present, and future aspects of his salvation allow us to stand against all of Satan's vicious assaults.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** NKJV

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; NKJV

⁴ *Ephesians 3:12* "... in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him". By Christ justifying me—I can always approach God with confidence. Say that aloud with me

Colossians 3:3 "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God". By Christ justifying me—I am safely hidden with Christ in God. Say that aloud with me

Hebrews 4:15-16 "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." By Christ justifying me—I always have His grace and help. Say that aloud with me

*Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.** NKJV*

As we remember Christ's death in our place our greatest privileges is to open and enjoy the gift of salvation God has given to us. By faith we please God when we believe what He's said about us. We need to not live by what others say or have said about us all your life.

Focus on your Regeneration

Because of our sin—we are all dead in our trespasses and sin; so we need regeneration.

Jesus died to take us who are dead in our sins, bring us to life and welcome us as family members, full of endless life and brand new—**that's regeneration!**

In Regeneration we go from dead and decaying to alive and overflowing.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God Himself has regenerated us. That means that He has sought us out in our dead and decaying condition, breathed eternal life into us, and brought us into His family by the new birth. Then He comes to live within us so we are forever having an abundant and overflowing, eternal life⁵.

- *1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually". Because Jesus regenerated me—I **am a member of Christ's Body.** Say that aloud with me*
- *1 John 5:18 "We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him". Because Jesus regenerated me—I **am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.** Say that aloud with me*

Focus on your Reconciliation

Because of our sin—we are all enemies of God; so we need reconciliation.

Jesus died to take enemies and make them friends—**that's reconciliation!** A Sinner stands before God as an enemy and is made a friend by His peace.

⁵ 2 Corinthians 1:21 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God". Because Jesus regenerated me—I **am established, anointed and sealed by God.** Say that aloud with me

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Because Jesus regenerated me—I **can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.** Say that aloud with me

Colossians 2:10 "...and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power". Because Jesus regenerated me—I **am complete in Christ.** Say that aloud with me

In Reconciliation we go from being an enemy at war with God to being His treasured friend!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has ended His war against us in our sin by Christ's reconciling sacrifice and has established not a truce, He has made us His treasured friend.

- *John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you".* Because Jesus reconciled me—**I am Christ's friend.** Say that aloud with me
- *2 Corinthians 5:17-20 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God".* Because Jesus reconciled me—**I am Christ's ambassador of reconciliation.** Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 1:6 "... to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved".* Because Jesus reconciled me—**I am accepted In Christ Jesus.** Say that aloud with me

Remember What Jesus Finished John 19:30

Start by bowing your head and thinking of the 3-4 worst sins you have ever committed or the most horrible besetting sins in your life: the ones you hope no one will ever know about.

Then, lift your eyes Heavenward and quietly in your heart thank Jesus Christ for completely forgiving you of all of those deep dark stains, and for erasing the record that you ever even did them.

Let that settle in for a moment. You have now done what God asks you to do at His Table—you have remembered Christ's death for your sins.

Tonight we remember Christ's death upon the cross.

The climactic end of Christ's redemption as the Lamb of God was captured by John as he stood at the foot of the Cross. Looking up through the darkness he heard and recorded Christ's one word.

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

In English we say "it is finished"; but in Greek those words are summed up in the single word that John heard Christ gasp on the cross—**tetelestai**.

Tetelestai was Jesus declaring to God His Father that the price of salvation was paid; and the debt of the sin of the world was paid; and the work of redemption was complete.

Again this word was a word that was very familiar to those of the New Testament times. This word tetelestai should burn into our hearts and minds because it was exactly the same word that a Roman judge would write on a criminals certificate of debt when he was released from prison—tetelestai, you debt to the Roman law is paid in full.

It is the same word that would be written on the certificate of a slave who had been enslaved to pay off a debt—tetelestai, your debt is paid in full, you may now go forth as a free man!

Paid in Full

Paid in full is what Jesus cried from the cross of His redemption as the work of salvation was once and for all time completed.

Paid in full is what He declares each time we come to Him confessing our sins.

Paid in full is what Jesus our advocate says while standing before God the Father as Satan the Accuser points out yet another time we have sinned.

Paid in full is the reality of Christ's payment of our redemption.

Redemption involves the blood of Jesus shed as He died on the Cross to pay the purchase price of our salvation. So redemption sums up Christ's death, His blood shed, His life given as a substitutionary sacrifice. So if any portion of salvation can be ranked as any more vital than any other—redemption would be at the top of the list.

Remember the illustration of the “Big Three Doctrines” from youth ministry many years ago? The big three we need to always understand are: redemption, justification, and sanctification.

1. We started life on earth as dead in our trespasses and sin (pictured by my pen laying on the palm of my hand); **redemption** is when Jesus reached down and bought us out of the slave market of sin (that is my hand grasping the pen);
2. **justification** is Jesus lifting me to be seated with Him already in Heaven, we are completely freed from the penalty and record of our sin;
3. **sanctification** is God forever binding our souls into His grasp and pulling us closer and closer to Him until at the end of our earthly life, He safely lands us into His Presence for ever.

The Gift of Redemption

Because of our sin—we are all slaves in bondage to sin and death; so we need Christ's payment of His death to buy us and take us out of the slave market of sin.

In Redemption we go from being a slave chained to our sins to becoming completely freed by God and given a new focus.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has liberated us from our slavery to sin, broken sins chains that long had enslaved us and freed us to focus our lives on what really matters to Him.

- *Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*". **Because I'm redeemed—Jesus destroyed the records of my sins and took my punishment.**
- *Romans 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.* **Because I'm redeemed—I have a new body coming!**
- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.* This verse summarizes the three tenses of our salvation. In the past we *have been saved* from the penalty of sin (righteousness); and in the present we *are being saved* from the power of sin (sanctification); and in the future we *shall be saved* from the presence of sin (redemption). **Because I'm redeemed—Jesus is all I need!**
- *1 Corinthians 6:20 "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's"*. **Christ bought me from the slave market with a high price—I belong to God.**
- Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. Since we have not been saved by our good works, we cannot be lost by our bad works. **Because I'm redeemed—my sins are forgiven forever.**
- Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them". **Because Christ bought me in redemption—I am God's workmanship.**
- *Philippians 1:6 "...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"*. **Because I'm redeemed—God will finish what He started in me.**
- Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **Because I'm redeemed—my sin debt is forever paid in full.**
- Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. **Because I'm redeemed—I am set free from every bondage to be zealous for God!**

- Revelation 5:9-12 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" **Because I'm redeemed—I will worship the Lord forever!**

The Gift of Justification

Because of our sin—we are all guilty convicts in God's sight; so we need justification.

Jesus died to take guilty convicts and destroy any record that that ever committed a crime and takes their place in the punishment—**that's the miracle of justification!** A Sinner stands before God as accused and is declared righteous by His imputed righteousness.

In Justification we go from being accused and guilty before God to being righteous and with no record of any wrongs!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has once and for all through Christ's sacrifice justified us. That means that He has accused us, declared us guilty of sin and then made us righteous and forever deleted the record of all our wrongs.

- *Romans 8:33-34 "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."* **By Christ justifying me—the record has been erased —I am free forever from condemnation.**
- *1 Corinthians 6:17 "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him."* **By Christ justifying me—I am forever united with the Lord.**
- *Ephesians 1:4 "... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love".* **By Christ justifying me—I was chosen by Jesus to be holy and blameless in his sight.**
- *Ephesians 2:6 "...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus".* **By Christ justifying me—I am already seated with Christ in Heaven.**

- *Ephesians 3:12* "... in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him". **By Christ justifying me—I can always approach God with confidence.**
- *Colossians 3:3* "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God". **By Christ justifying me—I am safely hidden with Christ in God.**
- *Hebrews 4:15-16* "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." **By Christ justifying me—I always have His grace and help.**

The Gift of Sanctification

Because of our sin—we are all defiled; so we need sanctification.

Christmas is about Jesus who died to take our soiled and misdirected lives that always get wasted and make them clean, focused and fruitful—**that's sanctification!**

In Sanctification we go from our formerly wasted and empty life to holy purposeful life.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has come into me and taken over my wasted life and made me new, entered my empty life and filled it with Himself to make me holy and filled with His purposes more and more until He gets me Home.

- *John 15:16* "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you". **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I have been chosen by God to bear fruit.**
- *Acts 1:8* "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am a personal witness for Christ.**
- *Romans 8:35* "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I will never be separated from the love of God. Say that aloud with me**
- *1 Corinthians 3:16* "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am God's temple.**
- *Ephesians 1:1* " Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus". **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am a saint.**

- *Ephesians 1:13* "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, you are marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit". **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am sealed and marked by the promises of God.**
- *Ephesians 2:18* "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father". **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. Say that aloud with me**
- *Colossians 3:12* "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering". **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I can wear Christ's love every day.**
- *2 Timothy 1:7* "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind". **Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I never need to fear again.**

OPEN THE GIFT OF REGENERATION

Because of our sin—we are all dead in our trespasses and sin; so we need regeneration.

The Gift of Salvation is about Jesus who died to take us who are dead in our sins, bring us to life and welcome us as family members, full of endless life and brand new—**that's regeneration!**

In Regeneration we go from spiritual deadness, and uninhabitable for God to life in His Spirit overflowing with His Presence.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God Himself has regenerated us. That means that He has sought us out in our dead and decaying condition, breathed eternal life into us, and brought us into His family by the new birth. Then He comes to live within us so we are forever having an abundant and overflowing, eternal life.

Regeneration transforms us in so many ways. We instantly become:

- *John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name".* Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am a Child of God.*** Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:2, 9 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.* Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am a Free From All SLAVERY.*** Say that aloud with me
- *1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am a Temple of God.*** Say that aloud with me
- *1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually".* Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am a member of Christ's Body.*** Say that aloud with me
- *2 Corinthians 1:21 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God".* Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am anointed and sealed by God.*** Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 2:1, 10 "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them".* Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am a Divine work.*** Say that aloud with me

You have heard of a piece of art being an original “masterpiece” or actually painted or made by a master like Michelangelo or Da Vinci. Well—we who believe are God's Word masterpieces; we are even signed by the Author Himself!

- *Philippians 4:13* “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me***. Say that aloud with me
- *Colossians 1:13* *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am a Citizens of Heaven***. Say that aloud with me
- *Colossians 2:10* “*...and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power*”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am complete in Christ***. Say that aloud with me
- *Titus 3:5* “*...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*” Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am washed, given a fresh start, and new beginning***. Say that aloud with me
- *1 John 5:18* “*We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him*”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me***. Say that aloud with me

OPEN THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

Because of our sin—we are all debtors to God’s Righteousness; so we need forgiveness.

Forgiveness. Nothing matters more to any who have sinned—and God says all have sinned.

One moment before your last breath, one thing will matter more than anything else—whether you are dying forgiven or unforgiven.

The peace you can have one moment before you die is available on a daily basis if you understand what God has done in Christ and if you choose to respond by faith to Him.

In Forgiveness we go from hopelessly offending God stained by sin to the peace of complete forgiveness.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God is a God who offers His children complete forgiveness. Trace with me again those life giving words in your hearts as I read them to you.

Then repeat the truth of what God has done!

- "... as far as the east is from the west, **so far has he removed** our transgressions from us". (Psalm 103:12). God said all my sins are gone. Say that aloud with me.
- " Come now, and 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 be** as wool.." (Is. 1:18). I am white as snow in God's sight. Say that aloud with me.
- "For I will forgive their wickedness and **will remember their sins no more.**" (Jeremiah 31:34b). God has forgotten all my sins. Say that aloud with me.
- "She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**" (John 8:11). "There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 8:1). Jesus will never condemn me for my sins. Say that aloud with me.

This morning celebrate your forgiveness that is only in Christ.

OPEN THE GIFT OF RECONCILIATION

Because of our sin—we are all enemies of God; so we need reconciliation.

Christmas is about Jesus who died to take enemies and make them friends—**that's reconciliation!** A Sinner stands before God as an enemy and is made a friend by His peace.

In Reconciliation we go from being an enemy at war with God to being His treasured friend!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has ended His war against us in our sin by Christ's reconciling sacrifice and has established not a truce, He has made us His treasured friend.

- *Ephesians 1:6 "... to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved". Because Jesus reconciled me—I am accepted In Christ Jesus. Say that aloud with me*
- *John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you". Because Jesus reconciled me—I am Christ's friend. Say that aloud with me*
- *2 Corinthians 5:17-20 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God". Because Jesus reconciled me—I am Christ's ambassador of reconciliation. Say that aloud with me*

OPEN THE GIFT OF ADOPTION

Because of our sin—we are all strangers to God; so we need adoption.

Christmas is about Jesus who died to take strangers and make them part of the family—**that's adoption!** A Sinner stands before God as a stranger and is called a Son by His choice.

In Adoption we go from being a stranger and an outsider to being His son or daughter and in partnership with Him!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has taken me from being a stranger outside of His presence and blessing and has made me his child and the son and daughter of His family in partnership with Him.

- *Ephesians 1:5 "... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."* I have been adopted by God. Say that aloud with me
- *John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name".* Because I was adopted by God—I am God's child. Say that aloud with me
- *John 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life".* Because I was adopted by God—I have everlasting life. Say that aloud with me
- *John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly".* Because I was adopted by God—I have abundant life. Say that aloud with me
- *John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you".* Because I was adopted by God—I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life. Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:17 "... and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together".* Because I was adopted by God—I am an heir of God, and co-heir with Christ. Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose".* Because I was adopted by God—God is working everything in my lifetime out for His good. Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:29 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren".* Because I was adopted by God—I am being conformed into Christ's likeness. Say that aloud with me

- *Philippians 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ".* Because I was adopted by God—I am a citizen of heaven. Say that aloud with me

START A NEW SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

If you have never tried this I'd encourage you to start a new dimension of your spiritual life by opening your gifts. Let me share with you one of the more wonderful spiritual exercises you can ever do.

As you begin each day, each month, and as we come to the end of this month—as you begin a new year, one of our greatest privileges is to open and enjoy the gift of salvation God has given to us. By faith we please God when we believe what He's said about us. We need to not live by what others say or have said about us all your life.

Satan is the Accuser and wants us to only remember all the many times we have fallen; Satan delights in the days, weeks, or months he can keep us condemning ourselves for what we've done. That is his plan, so don't fall for it. Resist Satan as you believe the truth; speak the truth; and preach the Gospel to yourself.

And when ever we fall down, God says to just turn back to Him and repent, confessing our sin immediately--and believe that what God has promised in His salvation. We are forgiven, justified, regenerated, reconciled, adopted, redeemed, and sanctified. That makes us precious in His sight, special in His plan.

One of the most powerful habits you could grow is to take this list of the ramifications of having received the only gift everyone really needs and rejoice by faith in your great salvation!

Keep this list in your Bible, at home, on your computer, put one on your mirror where you start your day, and in your car. Where ever you need to keep reminding yourself of what great things God has promised and done through Christ's death for us!

Slowly as you understand and lay hold on these truths a life-changing transformation take place in our minds, and then in our emotions, and finally throughout our entire life as we live each day based on God's eternal truth.

As you think about Christmas, gifts, presents, giving and receiving—why not check and be sure that you are opening the only gift that you (and everyone else) really needs? It starts as we:

As you begin each day, each month, and as we come to the end of this month—as you begin a new year, one of our greatest privileges is to open and enjoy the gift of salvation God has given to us. By faith we please God when we believe what He's said about us. We need to not live by what others say or have said about us all your life.

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070318PM Opening the Gift of Salvation--Redemption Part 6 .doc

SALVATION: God Gave the Greatest gift of All Have you opened your gift? Part-4: REDEMPTION

Redemption is a word that speaks of debts being paid, freedom being purchased and a life going in a completely new direction from the point of redemption onward.

So this tonight join me for the greatest theme in all the Bible—the redemption of lost sinners by the God who so loved the world that he gave His Son to die on a cross and shed His blood to pay the price of sin! And where better to see that theme than the way we will be—singing the new song of our worthy redeemer.

Please stand and follow along as we read these words:

*Revelation 5:9-12 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; **For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood** Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And*

have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

*Revelation 14:2-4 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand **who were redeemed from the earth**. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. **These were redeemed from among men**, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.*

Last time we saw that in the Roman Empire that surrounds the New Testament, when ever a person was convicted of a crime the law courts would produce a “certificate of debt” that listed the exact crime and the punishment that had to be paid before the criminal would be freed. The convicted criminal or debtor would have to sign the certificate and acknowledge the debt or punishment for the crime was rightfully his. This certificate of debt was then nailed to the door of the cell where they were imprisoned until their sentence was completed and the crimes were “paid” for.

This is exactly the legal imagery that Paul draws upon in Colossians 2:13-14. The word handwriting in v. 13 is the exact word for the list of crimes and/or debts the person was responsible for. Jesus took each of those “Certificates of Debt” upon Himself as He hung upon that cross. “Believers’ sins were all put to Christ’s account, nailed to His cross as He paid the penalty in their place for them all, thus satisfying the just wrath of God against crimes requiring punishment in full”.⁶

So as God the Father looked down at Christ He saw your sins and mine. John calls it “the sin of the world”. It was the totality of the sin of all humans that was nailed on Christ's Cross. That was Jesus declaring that He was guilty of every sin listed off for everyone of us and all who would ever live.

Now turn to the record of Christ's death upon the cross. The climactic end of Christ's redemption as the Lamb of God was captured by John as he stood at the foot of the Cross. Looking up through the darkness he heard and recorded Christ's one word.

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

⁶John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

In English we say “it is finished”; but in Greek those words are summed up in the single word that John heard Christ gasp on the cross—**tetelestai**.

Tetelestai was Jesus declaring to God His Father that the price of salvation was paid; and the debt of the sin of the world was paid; and the work of redemption was complete.

Again this word was a word that was very familiar to those of the New Testament times. This word tetelestai should burn into our hearts and minds because it was exactly the same word that a Roman judge would write on a criminals certificate of debt when he was released from prison—tetelestai, you debt to the Roman law is paid in full.

It is the same word that would be written on the certificate of a slave who had been enslaved to pay off a debt—tetelestai, your debt is paid in full, you may now go forth as a free man!

Paid in full is what Jesus cried from the cross of His redemption as the work of salvation was once and for all time completed; and paid in full is what He declares each time we come to Him confessing our sins.

Paid in full is what Jesus our advocate says while standing before God the Father as Satan the Accuser points out yet another time we have sinned.

One word captures the essence of our salvation this morning, and that word is redemption.

Redemption involves the blood of Jesus shed as He died on the Cross to pay the purchase price of our salvation. So redemption sums up Christ's death, His blood shed, His life given as a substitutionary sacrifice. So if any portion of salvation can be ranked as any more vital than any other—redemption would be at the top of the list.

Remember the illustration of the “Big Three Doctrines” from youth ministry many years ago? The big three we need to always understand are: redemption, justification, and sanctification.

We started life on earth as dead in our trespasses and sin (pictured by my pen laying on the palm of my hand); **redemption** is when Jesus reached down and bought us out of the slave market of sin (that is my hand grasping the pen); **justification** is Jesus lifting me to be seated with Him already in Heaven, we are completely freed from the penalty and record of our sin; **sanctification** is God forever binding our souls into His grasp and pulling us closer and closer to Him until at the end of our earthly life, He safely lands us into His Presence for ever.

OPEN THE GIFT OF REDEMPTION

Because of our sin—we are all slaves in bondage to sin and death; so we need Christ's payment of His death to buy us and take us out of the slave market of sin.

In Redemption we go from being a slave chained to our sins to complete freedom by God and a new focus.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has liberated us from our slavery to sin, broken sins chains that long had enslaved us and freed us to focus our lives on what really matters to Him.

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- *Romans 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. **Because I'm redeemed—I have a new body coming!***
- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. This verse summarizes the three tenses of our salvation. In the past we *have been saved* from the penalty of sin (righteousness); and in the present we *are being saved* from the power of sin (sanctification); and in the future we *shall be saved* from the presence of sin (redemption). **Because I'm redeemed—Jesus is all I need!***
- *1 Corinthians 6:20 "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's". **Christ bought me from the slave market with a high price—I belong to God.***
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- *Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against*

us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **Because I'm redeemed—my sin debt is forever paid in full.**

- Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. **Because I'm redeemed—I am set free from every bondage to be zealous for God!**
- Revelation 5:9-12 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" **Because I'm redeemed—I will worship the Lord forever!**

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- "... *as far as the east is from the west, **so far has he removed our transgressions from us***". (Psalm 103:12). God said all my sins are gone. Say that aloud with me.
- "*Come now, and 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 be as wool.***" (Is. 1:18). I am white as snow in God's sight. Say that aloud with me.
- "*For I will forgive their wickedness and **will remember their sins no more.***" (Jeremiah 31:34b). God has forgotten all my sins. Say that aloud with me.
- "*She said, "No one, Lord."* And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**" (John 8:11). "*There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus...*" (Romans 8:1). Jesus will never condemn me for my sins. Say that aloud with me.

This morning celebrate your forgiveness that is only in Christ.

OPEN THE GIFT OF JUSTIFICATION

Because of our sin—we are all guilty convicts in God's sight; so we need justification.

Christmas is about Jesus who died to take guilty convicts and destroy any record that that ever committed a crime and takes their place in the punishment—**that's justification!** A Sinner stands before God as accused and is declared righteous by His imputed righteousness.

In Justification we go from being accused and guilty before God to being righteous and with no record of wrongs!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has once and for all through Christ's sacrifice justified us. That means that He has accused us, declared us guilty of sin and then made us righteous and forever deleted the record of all our wrongs.

- *Romans 8:33-34 "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."* I have been justified and by Christ justifying me and because the record has been erased —I am free forever from condemnation. Say that aloud with me
- *1 Corinthians 6:17 "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him."* By Christ justifying me—I am forever united with the Lord. Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 1:4 "... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love".* By Christ justifying me—I was chosen by Jesus to be holy and blameless in his sight. Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 2:6 "...and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus".* By Christ justifying me—I am already seated with Christ in Heaven. Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 3:12 "... in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him".* By Christ justifying me—I can always approach God with confidence. Say that aloud with me
- *Colossians 3:3 "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God".* By Christ justifying me—I am safely hidden with Christ in God. Say that aloud with me

Hebrews 4:15-16 "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." By Christ justifying me—I always have His grace and help. Say that aloud with me

OPEN THE GIFT OF REGENERATION

Because of our sin—we are all dead in our trespasses and sin; so we need regeneration.

The Gift of Salvation is about Jesus who died to take us who are dead in our sins, bring us to life and welcome us as family members, full of endless life and brand new—**that's regeneration!**

In Regeneration we go from spiritual deadness, and uninhabitable for God to life in His Spirit overflowing with His Presence.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God Himself has regenerated us. That means that He has sought us out in our dead and decaying condition, breathed eternal life into us, and brought us into His family by the new birth. Then He comes to live within us so we are forever having an abundant and overflowing, eternal life.

Regeneration transforms us in so many ways. We instantly become:

- *John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name". Because Jesus regenerated me—**I am a Child of God.** Say that aloud with me*
- *Romans 8:2, 9 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Because Jesus regenerated me—**I am a Free From All SLAVERY.** Say that aloud with me*
- *1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Because Jesus regenerated me—**I am a Temple of God.** Say that aloud with me*
- *1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually". Because Jesus regenerated me—**I am a member of Christ's Body.** Say that aloud with me*
- *2 Corinthians 1:21 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God". Because Jesus regenerated me—**I am anointed and sealed by God.** Say that aloud with me*
- *Ephesians 2:1, 10 "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them". Because Jesus regenerated me—**I am a Divine work.** Say that aloud with me*

You have heard of a piece of art being an original “masterpiece” or actually painted or made by a master like Michelangelo or Da Vinci. Well—we who believe are God's Word masterpieces; we are even signed by the Author Himself!

- *Philippians 4:13* “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*** Say that aloud with me
- *Colossians 1:13* He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am a Citizens of Heaven.*** Say that aloud with me
- *Colossians 2:10* “...and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am complete in Christ.*** Say that aloud with me
- *Titus 3:5* “...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am washed, given a fresh start, and new beginning.*** Say that aloud with me
- *1 John 5:18* “We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him”. Because Jesus regenerated me—***I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.*** Say that aloud with me

OPEN THE GIFT OF RECONCILIATION

Because of our sin—we are all enemies of God; so we need reconciliation.

Christmas is about Jesus who died to take enemies and make them friends—**that's reconciliation!** A Sinner stands before God as an enemy and is made a friend by His peace.

In Reconciliation we go from being an enemy at war with God to being His treasured friend!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has ended His war against us in our sin by Christ's reconciling sacrifice and has established not a truce, He has made us His treasured friend.

- *Ephesians 1:6 "... to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved". Because Jesus reconciled me—I am accepted In Christ Jesus. Say that aloud with me*
- *John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you". Because Jesus reconciled me—I am Christ's friend. Say that aloud with me*
- *2 Corinthians 5:17-20 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God". Because Jesus reconciled me—I am Christ's ambassador of reconciliation. Say that aloud with me*

OPEN THE GIFT OF ADOPTION

Because of our sin—we are all strangers to God; so we need adoption.

Christmas is about Jesus who died to take strangers and make them part of the family—**that's adoption!** A Sinner stands before God as a stranger and is called a Son by His choice.

In Adoption we go from being a stranger and an outsider to being His son or daughter and in partnership with Him!

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has taken me from being a stranger outside of His presence and blessing and has made me his child and the son and daughter of His family in partnership with Him.

- *Ephesians 1:5 "... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."* I have been adopted by God. Say that aloud with me
- *John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name".* Because I was adopted by God—I am God's child. Say that aloud with me
- *John 6:47 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life".* Because I was adopted by God—I have everlasting life. Say that aloud with me
- *John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly".* Because I was adopted by God—I have abundant life. Say that aloud with me
- *John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you".* Because I was adopted by God—I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life. Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:17 "... and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together".* Because I was adopted by God—I am an heir of God, and co-heir with Christ. Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose".* Because I was adopted by God—God is working everything in my lifetime out for His good. Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:29 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren".* Because I was adopted by God—I am being conformed into Christ's likeness. Say that aloud with me

- *Philippians 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ".* Because I was adopted by God—I am a citizen of heaven. Say that aloud with me

OPEN THE GIFT OF SANCTIFICATION

Because of our sin—we are all defiled; so we need sanctification.

Christmas is about Jesus who died to take our soiled and misdirected lives that always get wasted and make them clean, focused and fruitful—**that's sanctification!**

In Sanctification we go from our formerly wasted and empty life to holy purposeful life.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has come into me and taken over my wasted life and made me new, entered my empty life and filled it with Himself to make me holy and filled with His purposes more and more until He gets me Home.

- *John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you".* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I have been chosen by God to bear fruit. Say that aloud with me
- *Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am a personal witness for Christ. Say that aloud with me
- *Romans 8:35 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I will never be separated from the love of God. Say that aloud with me
- *1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am God's temple. Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus".* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am a saint. Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 1:13 "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, you are marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit".* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I am sealed and marked by the promises of God. Say that aloud with me
- *Ephesians 2:18 "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father".* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. Say that aloud with me
- *Colossians 3:12 "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering".* Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I can wear Christ's love every day.

- *2 Timothy 1:7 "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"*. Because of Christ's sanctifying work in me—I never need to fear again. Say that aloud with me

START A NEW SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

If you have never tried this I'd encourage you to start a new dimension of your spiritual life by opening your gifts. Let me share with you one of the more wonderful spiritual exercises you can ever do.

As you begin each day, each month, and as we come to the end of this month—as you begin a new year, one of our greatest privileges is to open and enjoy the gift of salvation God has given to us. By faith we please God when we believe what He's said about us. We need to not live by what others say or have said about us all your life.

Satan is the Accuser and wants us to only remember all the many times we have fallen; Satan delights in the days, weeks, or months he can keep us condemning ourselves for what we've done. That is his plan, so don't fall for it. Resist Satan as you believe the truth; speak the truth; and preach the Gospel to yourself.

And when ever we fall down, God says to just turn back to Him and repent, confessing our sin immediately--and believe that what God has promised in His salvation. We are forgiven, justified, regenerated, reconciled, adopted, redeemed, and sanctified. That makes us precious in His sight, special in His plan.

One of the most powerful habits you could grow is to take this list of the ramifications of having received the only gift everyone really needs and rejoice by faith in your great salvation!

Keep this list in your Bible, at home, on your computer, put one on your mirror where you start your day, and in your car. Where ever you need to keep reminding yourself of what great things God has promised and done through Christ's death for us!

Slowly as you understand and lay hold on these truths a life-changing transformation take place in our minds, and then in our emotions, and finally throughout our entire life as we live each day based on God's eternal truth.

As you think about Christmas, gifts, presents, giving and receiving—why not check and be sure that you are opening the only gift that you (and everyone else) really needs? It starts as we:

As you begin each day, each month, and as we come to the end of this month—as you begin a new year, one of our greatest privileges is to open and enjoy the gift of salvation God has given to us. By faith we please God when we believe what He's said about us. We need to not live by what others say or have said about us all your life.

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And when ever we fall down, God says to just turn back to Him and repent, confessing our sin immediately--and believe that what God has promised in His salvation. We are forgiven, justified, regenerated, reconciled, adopted, redeemed, and sanctified. That makes us precious in His sight, special in His plan.

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Remembering What Jesus Paid For John 19:30

Tonight we remember Christ's death upon the cross. Most communion tables in most churches used to have the words from the New Testament engraved upon them⁷ say, "This do in remembrance of Me."

The climactic end of Christ's redemption as the Lamb of God was captured by John as he stood at the foot of the Cross. Looking up through the darkness he heard and recorded Christ's one word.

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

In English we say "it is finished"; but in Greek those words are summed up in the single word that John heard Christ gasp on the cross—**tetelestai**.

Tetelestai was Jesus declaring to God His Father that the price of salvation was paid; and the debt of the sin of the world was paid; and the work of redemption was complete.

Again this word was a word that was very familiar to those of the New Testament times. This word tetelestai should burn into our hearts and minds because it was exactly the same word that a Roman judge would write on a criminals certificate of debt when he was released from prison—tetelestai, your debt to the Roman law is paid in full.

It is the same word that would be written on the certificate of a slave who had been enslaved to pay off a debt—tetelestai, your debt is paid in full, you may now go forth as a free man!

Paid in Full

Paid in full is what Jesus cried from the cross of His redemption as the work of salvation was once and for all time completed.

⁷ Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:24-25.

Paid in full is what He declares each time we come to Him confessing our sins.

Paid in full is what Jesus our advocate says while standing before God the Father as Satan the Accuser points out yet another time we have sinned.

Paid in full is the reality of Christ's payment of our redemption.

Redemption involves the blood of Jesus shed as He died on the Cross to pay the purchase price of our salvation. So redemption sums up Christ's death, His blood shed, His life given as a substitutionary sacrifice. So if any portion of salvation can be ranked as any more vital than any other—redemption would be at the top of the list.

Remember the illustration of the “Big Three Doctrines” from youth ministry many years ago? The big three we need to always understand are: redemption, justification, and sanctification.

4. We started life on earth as dead in our trespasses and sin (pictured by my pen laying on the palm of my hand); ***redemption*** is when Jesus reached down and bought us out of the slave market of sin (that is my hand grasping the pen);
5. ***justification*** is Jesus lifting me to be seated with Him already in Heaven, we are completely freed from the penalty and record of our sin;
6. ***sanctification*** is God forever binding our souls into His grasp and pulling us closer and closer to Him until at the end of our earthly life, He safely lands us into His Presence for ever.

Paid in Full Means the Gift of Redemption is Mine

Because of our sin—we are all slaves in bondage to sin and death; so we need Christ's payment of His death to buy us and take us out of the slave market of sin.

In Redemption we go from being a slave chained to our sins to becoming completely freed by God and given a new focus.

We need to experience what the Scriptures often declare—God has liberated us from our slavery to sin, broken sins chains that long had enslaved us and freed us to focus our lives on what really matters to Him.

- *Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*”. **Because I’m redeemed—Jesus destroyed the records of my sins and took my punishment.**

- *Romans 8:23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. **Because I'm redeemed—I have a new body coming!***
- *1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. This verse summarizes the three tenses of our salvation. In the past we *have been saved* from the penalty of sin (righteousness); and in the present we *are being saved* from the power of sin (sanctification); and in the future we *shall be saved* from the presence of sin (redemption). **Because I'm redeemed—Jesus is all I need!***
- *1 Corinthians 6:20 "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's". **Christ bought me from the slave market with a high price—I belong to God.***
- Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. Since we have not been saved by our good works, we cannot be lost by our bad works. **Because I'm redeemed—my sins are forgiven forever.**
- Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them". **Because Christ bought me in redemption—I am God's workmanship.**
- *Philippians 1:6 "...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ". **Because I'm redeemed—God will finish what He started in me.***
- Colossians 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **Because I'm redeemed—my sin debt is forever paid in full.**
- Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. **Because I'm redeemed—I am set free from every bondage to be zealous for God!**
- Revelation 5:9-12 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the

Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" **Because I'm redeemed—I will worship the Lord forever!**

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