

“Plenteous Redemption”  
Psalm 130  
(Preached at Trinity, September 8, 2013)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Psalm 130** opens with an air of despair. He psalmist cries out from the depths.  
"Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD."  
There are endless reasons why human beings find themselves in despair in this life.
  - Some fall into despair over their declining health. In their weakened state, barely able to rise from their bed, they see little prospects for recovery. They despair of facing another day.
  - Some fall into despair over their intense loneliness. Perhaps family is gone and friends are few. If only God would send a mate. If only I had a friend. If only someone cared. They despair of another day of loneliness.
  - Someone in a bad marriage sees no chance for a turn-around. Giving up hope they determine to divorce; to walk away from their vows.
  - Some fall into despair when their financial fortunes collapse. During the Great Depression the vice president of the Earl Radio Corporation jumped to his death from the window of a Manhattan hotel. His suicide note read, "We are broke. Last April I was worth \$100,000. Today I am \$24,000 in the red."
  - Taking advantage of the 1929 Stock Market crash Jesse Livermore famously made over \$100 million but subsequently lost it all. In 1940 he committed suicide. His suicide note read: "My dear Nina: Can't help it. Things have been bad with me. I am tired of fighting. Can't carry on any longer. This is the only way out. I am unworthy of your love. I am a failure. I am truly sorry, but this is the only way out for me."
2. Despair is a horrible thing. We find it here in **Verse 1** - "Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD."  
Psalm 130 is called in the Latin, "*de profundis*" – "in the depths"
3. During times of great despair most turn within; they look to their own resources, their own reason. Self-help is a weak position of support. There is only one ultimate cure for desperation.  
The Godly person clearly understands the source of his help in every distress.  
**Psalm 62:7 KJV** - "In God *is* my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, *and* my refuge, *is* in God."  
**Psalm 94:22 KJV** - "But the LORD *is* my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge."
4. Out of the depths of despair the psalmist turns to God in prayer.  
**Psalm 130:2 KJV** - "Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications."
5. But what is the source of his anguish? What has driven him to such a pit of despair?  
We are not left without an answer.

**Verse 3** tells us the source of his heartache with a single word: “Iniquities”

His problem is guilt. The greatest problem of human beings is sin.

One of the greatest sorrows for a Christian is the issue of his sin. The guilt of sin is a horrible fire that burns in our bosom. There is no relief until we confess our sin and turn from it in repentance. Only then can we find the peace and comfort that comes through repentance.

6. This psalm is one of the seven penitential psalms. The others are Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, and 143. There is no greater sorrow than the sorrow of sin. We are still looking at that body of psalms known as the Psalm’s of Ascent – Psalms 120-134. The annual festivals were times of reflection. Reflection and meditation often reveal sins that often lay buried deep within our hearts.

I’ll divide **Psalm 130** under three heads

- I. The Righteous Revelation – **Verse 3**
- II. The Realization of Relief – **Verses 5-6**
- III. Recognition of Redemption and Restoration – **Verses 7-8**

I. The Righteous Revelation – **Verse 3**

- A. The psalmist had an understanding of his sin
  1. In the context of this psalm among the psalms of ascent, the path to the house of God is a path of confession
  2. Nothing unrighteous shall approach our infinitely holy God
  3. The Holy of Holies was a constant reminder of our separation from God. And the mercy seat was a constant reminder of the need of atonement.
- B. **Verse 3** is a statement of the reality of sin
  1. This revelation is of the greatest importance
    - a. The problem of humanity is a blindness regarding an awareness of sin. Few live their lives with any real awareness of God. And where there is at least a general awareness of God most believe they are good people. They may make an occasional mistake but they believe God should be pleased with them. They see themselves as worthy of the blessings of God. This is why people complain so loudly when they face adversity.
    - b. But the righteous man sees himself clearly – his eyes are open to his sin. When he looks at himself he sees the reality of his corruption.
    - c. There is no greater anguish, no greater despair than to come under conviction of sin. Without forgiveness we would be left in despair. "If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"
  2. God is holy and just
    - a. God is infinitely perfect  
He dwells in the light of infinite purity.
    - b. Few understand how God looks upon sin.  
Sin is abominable in God’s sight. It is infinitely filthy. God has a holy hatred towards sin.

- c. When God came down on Mount Sinai the entire mountain shook and quaked, lightning filled the sky and thunder roared through the camp of Israel. They were warned not to come near. Why? Because God is perfect and they were polluted by sin.
  - d. Our tract, "How many sins does it take to send a person to hell" is highly offensive to many. Why? Because they do not want to think about sin and of judgment.
3. God is a God of perfect justice.  
Knowing the nature of God the Psalmist asks this question of God:  
**Psalm 130:3 KJV** - "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"
- a. There is the acknowledgement that God sees. He knows. Nothing escapes His attention. He knows everything you have ever done; every thought; every motive. He sees jealousy, envy, bitterness, anger, lust, pride, covetousness.
  - b. The truth is God DOES mark iniquities. He sees every one; remembers every one, and records every one unto the Day of Judgment. Each sin kindles His wrath and indignation.  
**Romans 2:5-6 KJV** - " But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; <sup>6</sup> Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"
  - c. If men were left in their sin none could stand. In a world void of mercy there would be nothing but God's curse.  
**Psalm 130:3 KJV** - "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"
4. If you stand before God as you are you will stand as a guilty sinner. You will experience His infinite wrath.

## II. The Realization of Relief - **Verses 4-6**

- A. But there *is* forgiveness
  - 1. **Verse 4** is one of the verses in God's Word that shines with infinite brilliance - "But *there is* forgiveness with thee"
  - 2. If you are in the depths in deep trouble over your sin and you are seeking forgiveness forgiveness is available. No one has to perish in his sin.
  - 3. How does one receive such an infinitely marvelous gift?
    - a. It is completely apart from human works or human effort. Luther referred to **Psalm 130** as a Pauline Psalm because of its emphasis on salvation by grace apart from works.
    - b. So how does one receive God's pardon?  
First, through the confession of sin  
**1 John 1:9** - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
    - c. Notice he cries out from the depths – there is a deep sorrow and anguish in his sin. This is the nature of genuine conviction. Our hearts are stirred, our souls are grieved; our consciences condemn us as the Law convinces us of our guilt.

- d. Forgiveness cannot occur unless we acknowledge our sin and our just condemnation.
- B. But what can deal with the problem of our iniquity?
1. God is a righteous Judge. He is perfectly holy.  
There can be no forgiveness without pardon. There can be no pardon unless God's holiness is vindicated and His wrath appeased.
  2. **Verses 7-8** speak of redemption – the paying of a ransom  
God had to deal with the problem of our guilt – we have sinned
  3. This redemption has been planned from the beginning of the world. God chose to redeem us by sending forth His Son. All of Scripture reveals this glorious plan of God's redeeming grace.
  4. The psalmist didn't have the full revelation of God's redeeming grace. He didn't yet know that God's promise would be fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. But he surely knew of unmerited pardon.  
But we have the full revelation revealed in Christ!
  5. Jesus Christ is our pardon. He satisfied God's wrath with His own blood. He met God's demand for perfect holiness with His own obedience.
  6. We must look to God's Son. We must turn to Christ and follow Him
    - a. We must trust in His righteous life  
We must trust in His atoning death as a full satisfaction of God's condemnation upon our guilt.
    - b. We must embrace Him as the Lord of our lives
- C. What does it mean to "wait" upon God? – **verses 5-6**
1. This is a simple statement of the life of the believer  
It is a life lived patiently waiting upon God.
  2. It speaks of our blessed hope and holy confidence.  
We haven't yet arrived, yet in Christ we are assured that He has redeemed us and will complete that which He has accomplished.  
**Philippians 3:12 NAS** - "Not that I have already obtained *it*, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."
  3. God doesn't save us just to escape punishment and keep us out of hell. He saves us that we might walk with Him and worship Him.  
Notice:  
"But *there is* forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."
  4. God's free grace never leads a man to continue in sin. It leads to a holy disposition of righteousness – the fruit of repentance.  
We live our life trusting Him, loving Him, and patiently waiting for the fulness of our redemption.
  5. **Verse 6** speaks of the new light of the morning. Morning is a new beginning. Darkness is chased away.  
**Psalms 30:5 KJV** - "For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning."
  6. **Verse 5** speaks of the surety of God's Word. "in His Word I do hope."  
We find comfort in the promises of God. Once again we find the place of the Word of God in the life of the believer.  
**Psalms 130:5 KJV** - "and in his word do I hope."

7. Spurgeon: "Waiting, we study the word, believe the word, hope in the word, and live on the word; and all because it is *"his word,"* — the word of him who never speaks in vain. Jehovah's word is a firm ground for a waiting soul to rest upon."
8. The Word of God is also a wonderful means of protecting us from future iniquity

### III. Recognition of our Redemption and Restoration – **Verses 7-8**

- A. We find here the great transition from the depths of despair to the heights of joy and assurance  
**Psalm 130:7 KJV** - "Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD *there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.*"
  1. Our sins are horrible. They defile us and cause us great grief  
The lost sinner falls into the depth of despair and cries out from the pit
  2. But what is the source of our hope and assurance? Is it found in our ability to be sinless? Is it found in our ability to cleanse ourselves?
  3. This is not a psalm that focuses on man – all focus is upon God.  
LORD is repeated 8 times either using the word Jehovah or Adonai
  4. Our hope is in God alone. Our God is a God of redeeming grace – plenteous redemption
- B. God always keeps covenant
  1. The word for “mercy” (V.7) in the KJV is מִחֻנָּה  
His boundless electing love will never falter or fail
  2. He shall redeem us from all our iniquities.
- C. God has provided for us abundantly
  1. In **Verses 7-8** the despair is gone and in its place is joy in God’s grace of restoration.
  2. The psalmist describes it as “Plenteous redemption” – it speaks of exceeding, abundant redemption. Plenteous enough to cover the worst of sins. He can forgive murder, rape, adultery and homosexuality. He can forgive a lying tongue, an angry heart. He can forgive you of the idols that you have loved more than Him. He is plenteous in redemption.
  3. Christ is more than sufficient. He is all in all.

#### Conclusion:

1. What a glorious psalm this is because it points to our glorious pardon in Christ. In Christ we are raised from the pit of despair. We are delivered from horrible fear and hopelessness to wonderful hope and assurance.
  2. Forgiveness is for those who desire it; those weeping that they have offended God. There is plenteous redemption. If you take hold of Him you will find Him sufficient.
  3. Have you tasted of Christ’s redemption? Have you found it sweet and sufficient? Truly God has provided for us plenteous redemption.  
**Titus 3:3-7 KJV** - "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; <sup>6</sup> Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; <sup>7</sup> That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."
- Romans 5:20-1 KJV** - "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: <sup>21</sup> That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. "