

# Redemption

BY B. G. ECHOLS

**R**edemption referred to the release of slaves or prisoners for a price. Those in sin are "in the snare of the devil having been taken captive by him unto his will" (2 Tim. 2:26).

Jesus came to set us free (Lk. 4:18). Thus "redemption" was often used to describe the process of being saved by Christ. "Knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ" (1 Pet. 1:18, 19). Peter's reference is an echo of what he heard Jesus say. "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto you, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mt. 20:28). We are redeemed, not only from the guilt of sin, but from a sinful life itself.

## VAIN MANNER OF LIFE

"Vain" refers to what is empty or useless in view of God and eternity. A life of sin is futile. Just as Egypt was something "from" which Israel was to be redeemed, so is a life of sin. While some sinners are slaves to tobacco, alcohol, gambling, narcotics, etc., their real master, the master of all sinners, is Satan. His slavery is something "from" which to be freed. If that power of the past is to be driven out of

the saved, it can only be by the explosive power of a new affection which is stronger. That is the love of Christ Who saved us from an empty life. Once we have Christ and a new purpose of life, the old manner of life is no longer congenial.

This verse reveals one way evil is perpetuated. Much of our thinking and acting is what we had handed down to us by our ancestors. Unless we allow God's word to be our only guide, we are apt to continue to think as we were first taught. Many people's religion is "hand-me-down." It too is vain. Saving faith is personal conviction resulting from a personal study and acceptance of what God says because God says it. One of the strongest arguments made for false religions as well as for error in life is that men have received this from their fathers. "We have always done this..." "We have always believed this..." Habitual action is made an excuse for our shortcomings. It is used as a substitute for thinking.

## PRECIOUS BLOOD

It is precious within itself, and especially as compared to silver and gold, for it will do what

they cannot do. It has power to save. It is precious because it is the blood of a spotless sacrifice, of God's Christ, who was fore-known before the world. Peter was first a disciple of John the Baptist who heard John's introduction of Jesus as the "lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). Israel was enslaved in Egypt and redeemed by blood. In reference to the Pass-over lamb, God told them, "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt" (Exod. 12:13). It was lamb's blood then, and it is Lamb's blood now.

Redemption was dear to Christ, but is free to us. The price to be paid by Him was His death. We are to have the benefits without money or price, but by faith. Corruptible things cannot save us. Redemption is by the blood of Christ. We must not try to figure out why it is this way, or how blood is connected with redemption. It is enough to believe God and obey His will.

This verse helps us to understand clearly what the church is. We are redeemed by His blood. His blood purchased the church (Acts 20:28). The church is the redeemed of the world.