

A Gracious Deliverance
God in His Mercy, Redeemed Us and Forgave Us
Connecting with God (CWG) Series - Part 5
Feb 8-9

Introduction

- **Humans messed it up** - Human beings created a serious problem for ourselves. In our decision to be our own King, we disconnected from God, the only source of life.
 - We put ourselves on a trajectory toward a terrible end.
- **God Comes to the Rescue** - God was not okay with us wrecking ourselves so He stepped in and personally provided a means of salvation.
 - **Connected to the Saving One?** - The core issue is whether or not we are connected to the Saving One, so He can do what He has determined to do, save His creation from destruction.

Connection brings REDEMPTION

Lesson

- **Context Passage** - I'm going to read the bigger passage, verses 7-10 but we are only going to study verse 7 today.
 - **Eph 1:7-10** - *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."*
 - **Let Me Highlight our Focus Again - Eph 1:7-8a** - *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us,..."*
- **Paying the Ultimate Price**
 - **How God Saves Mankind**
 - **Ephesians 1:7a** - *"In him we have redemption through his blood,..."*
 - **In Him** = through what He has done and due to the person that He is constantly, this reality is true all the time.
 - **We Have these things** - present, active, indicative = we have it right now, God's doing it and it's a fact.
 - **What is Redemption?** - redemption is an odd word because it has a couple different parts to it (3 OT words/concepts) but in the end it

means, 'set someone or something free' (to loose, free from chains, slavery or prison), usually by payment.

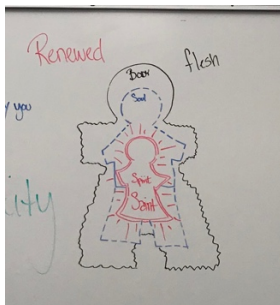
- **What was the Payment?** - the blood of Jesus Christ. His death on the cross. Jesus died for our sins, in our place. That's the core of the Gospel.
- **The Dangerous Diversion (buy back/ransom)** - because one of the concepts of redemption in the Bible means to 'buy-back' or 'pay a ransom for', people think this is what God did for mankind. The answer is 'kind-of'. Regardless of how it worked out (God cleared the account with the death of His Son Jesus Christ), God didn't pay anyone or anything for our release. God didn't make a deal with Satan as if Satan had the power over us and God had to pay him for it. That is unbiblical and inappropriate. God doesn't make deals with Satan. They are not equal and opposite powers.
- **Yes, we were ransomed** (Mt 20:28; Mk 10:45) in the sense that a payment was made on our behalf to clear an account, but no, an outside entity was not the recipient of that payment.
- **Where did the Offering/Payment go?** - The Son made the payment to the Father to clear the account of the saved. This means that the Father set into motion a law for His creation that if they rebelled against Him and selected another god (idolatry), that they would be destroyed (wrath). This is where we get the famous verse, 'the wages of sin is death' (Rom 6:23). In other words, any creation that sins, dies for that sin. The payment demanded is your eternal life, for an eternal debt. So, the Father was a guardian of that justice and law. But, His love was so great that He then determined to send His One and Only Begotten Son (Jn 3:16), down here to pay the price and die in the place (fully man = legit human payment; fully God = more than enough to cover the account of any humans who would utilize it) of sinful mankind, thus setting them free from the payment since it was already paid by someone else. The payment was to the system that the Father set up. It was God, paying God (or paying off His instituted penalty system).
- **The Story of Redemption in General (mankind)** - God is seen in the Old Testament as a freer of the oppressed. The Bible uses terms like *Redeemer* or *Deliverer*. For our purposes today, it's best to use those as synonyms (meaning the same thing). For example, the OT records one of God's biggest 'redemptions' by setting the Hebrews free from slavery to Egypt. God didn't pay for them to be released, He delivered them

from oppression. In the same way God has come to deliver us from sin. We are oppressed by sin via the world, the flesh and the devil. How did He do that?

- **An Unpayable Debt (Mt 18 parable)** - Jesus told a parable story in Matt 18 about a man who owed a king 'ten thousand talents' (talent = 20 years wages of a common laborer), an impossible sum to ever pay back. The king forgave that man. That man in turn went out and demanded that another man pay him what he owed him (which was a tiny amount) under threat of prison. The King was furious that he had forgiven such an insurmountable debt only to have the man demand a puny amount harshly from another. That story demonstrates God forgiving us an unpayable debt of our sins. We could never make up for it.
- **The Slavery and Prison of sin (broken root can't be atoned for; new creation = freedom to not sin)** - we couldn't get out of the cycle of sin without Jesus. It was consistently present in us and would consistently condemn us over and over. No matter how many times we would 'atone' (cover over) our sin, the root was still there constantly causing destruction. That root had to be rooted out. That's what Jesus did by digging down to the root of the human being and making us a 'new creation' by letting us be 'born again' into a new existence. The Old self dies with Christ and the new self rises with Him. Therefore, the old person with the broken, rotten root is dead and gone, but the new life in Christ doesn't have that broken root anymore. It's purified at the core. Therefore, we are no longer bullied and enslaved by our sin nature, we have a chance, an opportunity to do differently. Prior to our salvation, we only had one option...to sin. Why? Because nothing we did that was 'good' was counted as righteousness/good. We only sinned, all the time. It was our nature (broken, sinful from birth, original sin from Adam) to sin. But now, as believers and new creations, sin is an option, not an automatic. We can choose to walk in our new nature, honoring God. Our core is pure.
- **Your story of redemption specifically (you and I)** - Although our personal stories follow the same line as the general redemption of mankind (mentioned above), it's important that we see how personal God is and what He has done for us directly. Paul moves on to that in our next portion of the Verse.

- **Whiting a Crimson Stain**
 - **How God Maintains Connection**
 - **Ephesians 1:7a - "In him we have...the forgiveness of our trespasses,..."**
 - **What is Forgiveness generally?**
 - **Modern dictionary gives 2 definitions:** 1.) to grant relief from payment of; 2.) cease to feel resentment against an offender.
 - **Biblical Definition - To release the offense.** The Bible talks about forgiveness from God toward us in the following ways:
 - The Lord doesn't reckon the offense against us (Jn 20:23; Job 33:27; 2 Cor 5:19)
 - The sin is taken away (2 Sam 12:13)
 - We are pardoned (Isa 40:2)
 - Sin removed as far as east is from the west (Ps 103:12)
 - Sins are sealed up and not looked at (Job 14:17)
 - Sin are cast behind God's back and not looked at (Isa 38:17)
 - Sins swept away like the morning mist (Isa 44:22)
 - **Sin has 2 dimensions when it comes to sinning against God: 1.)**
 - Judicial** - legal, condemnation, wages of sin is death, etc.; **2.)**
 - Relational** - affecting the relationship between God and man personally. Living, active relational connection. Intimacy.
 - **Impact on Judicial/Positional Aspect** - Our sins are not held against us, not because God simply said it's no big deal and moved on, but because they were paid for by Jesus Christ.
 - **Impact on the Relational Aspect** - this is tricky for me. Although on one hand it's clear that God is so perfect that He can, not allow our sins to effect His love and blessing toward us once it's forgiven, AND because when the Father looks at us, He sees His Son's payment to clear it out, AND the Son is interceding for us continually in heaven (Rom 8:34), I think there is a matter of connection that is impacted when we willfully rebel against God. I think about it like a child with a parent, there is still discipline and that discipline affects the relationship on one level (not the deepest level, but the fun/light level). So, honestly, I don't fully know the impact of rebellion, misalignment, etc. for the believer. I'm still learning that. How much does God hold us accountable for, for our own good and development?

- **What is means to be Forgiven Specifically?** - specifically, we have sinned. Personally, we sin. And personally, and specifically God has forgiven us in Christ. That's critical to understand.
- **Ongoing unearned forgiveness is called...Grace** - Paul turns our attention toward that next.
- **State of Grace**
 - **Understanding God's Grace Toward Believers**
 - **Ephesians 1:7a** - *"In him we have [all of this]... according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us..."*
 - **What is Grace?** = unearned/undeserved kindness, blessing.
 - **Why highlight the Riches and His Lavishing?** - **The Prodigal God.**
Tim Keller wrote a book called, the Prodigal God, because prodigal means extraordinary wasteful, abundant expenditure. When Keller looks at God's grace, kindness, love, forgiveness, mercy, this is how he would describe God's heart toward humanity.
 - **A State of Grace** - God doesn't do a one-time grace dump on a Christian. They are permanently moved from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of Light, born again into His family, thus are children of God, thus are permanently part of His love and blessing. It's a new state of being.
 - **Perfected for All Time** - Heb 10:9-10, 12-14 - *"He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."*
 - **Not Under Law but Under Grace** - Ro 6:14 - *"For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."*
 - **[the diagram/illustration]**



- **Explain It - Spirit, Soul, Body**

- **Spirit = the deepest core of who we are.** Christ did His initial saving work, there, with ramifications for the other two. It's double walled because stuff can't flow into it. It expands through surrender, abiding in Christ and connection with the Lord. As it expands, it pushes outward shaping the soul and body eventually. This is where forgiveness and grace are intensely done. This is where our 'positional' impact is changed. This is where we are *Born Again*, where we are *new creations*, where we are transferred to the *Kingdom of Light*.
- **Soul = the Deep part of who we are, that we are aware of.** It's our personality, our emotions, mind and will. It's permeable. Stuff flows from the body into it and from the spirit into it. It's in a state of flux, sanctification. The more the spirit grows and expands outward, the more it takes the shape of the spirit inside. This is where Christian identity work is done primarily.
- **Body - the Surface part of what most people see and what interacts with the world around us.** This is the last part to see the sanctification process. It is also the part that interacts with sin the most. It's messy and jagged. If you want it to be fixed then, allow the Holy Spirit to expand what He has done in your spirit to press outward, shaping your soul, which in turn will shape your body into the image of Jesus.
- **Old Covenant vs. New Covenant** - I want to share some insights and shortcut-clarity (i.e. a neat way to see all this come together through Scripture) I received from a source I won't name, because although it's accurate and brilliant, most of us are too immature to realize that someone can be brilliant in one area and off in another and this leader is controversial historically. So, they shall remain nameless, but in my heart get honor. It begins with an examination of the differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant in Christ.
- **Old Covenant with Israel & God's People = 2 Way Contract** - If you are obedient then you will be blessed. God doing what He wanted to do (bless) was limited by man's decisions
 - **Blessings for Obedience - Dt 28:1-3** - *"And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you*

obey the voice of the LORD your God. ³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field."

- **Curses for Disobedience - Dt 28:15-16** - "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field."
- **Jesus Changed Everything with His Death and Resurrection** - Jesus as a Jew kept the whole Law, then cancelled it (He didn't destroy it, He fulfilled it), Then Jesus provided the new and living way by paying for us. He is the Way, Truth and Life. (Mt 5:17-18).
- **Christ redeemed us from the Curse of the Law** - Ga 3:10-13 - "For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..."
- **Establishment of a New Covenant** - Heb 8:8-13 [quoting Jer 31:31-34] - "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." ¹³ In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."

- **New = 1 Way Promise/Contract** - We ARE blessed as children, now go live freely obedient.
 - **It's not man-dependent.** Man can't mess it up. Man can't take credit for any of the righteousness.
 - **Obedience isn't required for the core blessings (eternal life).**
 - Ro 5:19-21 - *"For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
- **What happens to sin with the believer?**
 - **Obedience Matters, BUT Don't mix the covenants** - many times we teach or believe that in order to be saved we need to believe and obey, but that's mixing the two covenants (Old and New). We believe and teach: We are saved by Grace but keep our salvation by obedience. I feel the temptation myself, but that's not how it works.
 - **Sin is not okay (It's neither honoring to Him, nor in alignment with our new nature)**
 - **Don't Let Sin Reign Any More** - Ro 6:12-18 - *"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."* (cf. Titus 2:11-14)
 - **We Have Confidence to Approach God as Clean** - Heb 10:19-22 - *"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the*

holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

- **Sin as the Great Revealer of Faith**

- **Practicing Sinners Aren't Abiding** - 1 Jn 3:4-10 - *“Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”*

- **Choosing Sin Over God Reveals a Disconnect** - Heb 10:26-27 - *“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.”*

- **Lifestyle is Evidence of Inward Transformation** - 1 Jn 2:3-6 - *“And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”*

- **Balancing Relationship & Child Status**

- **The difference between an employee and a child** - One works to keep the relationship, the other just has the relationship and is held accountable to live up to that new status.

- **Discipline vs. Wrath (Children are disciplined; Enemies get Wrath)** - Wrath = destruction; discipline = correction. One is restorative and the other isn't. Jesus took our wrath, but discipline is relational.
 - **We can be Confident During the Day of Judgment** (it's not for us) - 1 Jn 4:15-17 - *"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world."*
 - **If Jesus Saved Us; His Wrath isn't For Us** - Ro 5:9-10 - *"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."*
- **Relational Disruption versus Spiritual Disruption**
 - **Confession Once or Continually?** - 1 Jn 1:9 - *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
 - **Jesus is Our Ongoing Advocate** - 1 Jn 2:1-2 - *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."*
- **How Do We Get Into this New Covenant?** - watch how it changed.
 - **Matt 19:16-17 - What must I do to be saved? Rich Young Ruler** - Gospels are still Old Covenant based. The Law was in place. Jesus hadn't died and rose yet. So, what's the answer? Obey the commandments.
 - **Rich Young Ruler Passage** - Mt 19:16-22 - *"And behold, a man came up to him, saying, Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" ¹⁷ And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false*

witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰ The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” ²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

- **All righteous-acts based.** This is how the Old System worked. Jesus was speaking in the Old Covenant language and mindset. But notice that Jesus said, after doing all that, follow Me. Jesus knew that He was going to reveal a New Covenant.
- **Acts 16:30 - What must I do to be saved? The Jailer w/Paul & Silas** - Acts and NT forward is under the New Covenant (Jesus died and rose again), so what’s the answer now to be saved? - believe in Jesus Christ who paid it all.
 - Ac 16:29-34 - “And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.”
- **Inside Out Transformation**
 - **If You Love Me, You Will Keep My Commands** - Jn 14:15-24 - “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

- **Relationship & Identity Drives the Obedience** - We don't get a relationship with God, or an identity as His child by doing good things. That is a religious system whereby mankind tries to reach up (do good works) to get to God. Christianity teaches that in our inability, God reached down and did it all for us through Jesus Christ and our proper response is to receive His gift, receive Him into our hearts and allow Him to be the King of our lives.

Conclusion

- **Redemption, Forgiveness & Grace** - who needs this today?
- **Altar Call time.**