

The Redeemer and the Redeemed
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Psalm 34:22 reads: "The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned."

We hear that word "redeem" or "Redeemer" quite often in the bible, or religious contexts, but I often think we don't really understand what it means. It's just not used commonly, other than coupons - we redeem those. What, is Jesus a thrifty shopper, and thus we are saved?

To redeem is to "buy back" something, but even that sort of doesn't flow or connect well. So let's use a different word than "redeem". Let's use the word "ransoms." The LORD ransoms the life of His servants. I think that makes a bit more sense to us today.

Because of sin, we are held in bondage to Satan and death. That's just the reality - that's the pit we are in and we are unable to affect a change. Even if we promise to stop and never do it again - doesn't work. We are stuck. So, God ransoms us - He redeems our life - He does whatever is necessary to remove us from Satan's clutches and back into His kingdom. And this redemption, this ransom is done "not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom...."

Our salvation doesn't rest in us. It doesn't rely upon our ability to toe the line - that ship has sailed. We are those who have been rescued by Christ.

This week, chances are that you will see your sin. You will see places and times where you mess up, where you see in part the fullness of your sin and how it ensnares you. Fear not - for Christ Jesus your LORD redeems you - He has ransomed you from sin, and in truth, you do not belong to sin. You belong to Jesus, for you are baptized into Him.

And those who take refuge in Christ Jesus will never be condemned. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.