

## **The Reality of Our Redemption**

by Sherry Jones

When we think of redemption, many times we think of it in religious terms. However, it is not a creed or denominational tenet, but a living reality. The central issue of the Bible is the story of redemption and what that means.

Redemption is something that God has done for us through the person of Jesus Christ. In other words, Christianity doesn't begin with something we do; it begins with something that has been accomplished for us in Christ.

The word "redemption" from Webster's Dictionary, 1828 edition, means "the act of procuring the deliverance of persons or things from the possession and power of captors." The scripture states in 1 Tim 2:5-6, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, The man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." The Plain English Bible says, "Who gave himself as the price of freedom for all men." Jesus gave himself a ransom for all, or stated differently, he gave himself as the "redemptive price" to set all men free.

After Adam sold out to the devil in the Garden of Eden and committed high treason, he became a child of wrath and no longer responded to the call of God. Their fellowship had been broken and Adam and Eve were cast from the garden with no legal grounds to approach unto God. In fact, man's condition was so bad under the old covenant that only the high priest could enter into the holy of holies once a year to atone for the sins of the people. When he approached the presence of God, he entered with the blood of an animal sacrifice, wearing bells on his garment's hem and having a rope tied around his ankle, for fear that he could die in the presence of God's holiness, were all the conditions of approaching unto God were not met.

But God promised that a redeemer would come and that He would come as a sacrificial lamb. John the Baptist, upon seeing Jesus in the crowd, said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." A price had to be paid for our redemption and Jesus was the "lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Our redemption applies to all areas of our life and all of man's need is supplied in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus purchased our freedom legally and completely and He did it one time for all of humanity. We must major on the greatness of Jesus and what He has done. Some important things to remember are:

- 1) He is alive
- 2) He is the head of the church
- 3) He is the Lord of a New Creation

4) All power in heaven and earth has been given unto Him

5) He sent the Holy Spirit

Understanding the price that God paid for our redemption and what that means to us will draw us closer and cause us to fall in love with Him.