



# Blackfoot Church of Christ

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## Our Redemption

By Jim Mickells

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7) There is a lot of information supplied to us in this verse about our redemption. It should be of the utmost interest and concern to every person of what is said on this subject. The eternal destiny of everyone is determined, not only by their understanding of this matter, but also by their willingness to submit to the requirements made by the Lord. Salvation is not just by grace. God requires faith, and faith demands obedience (Ephesians 2:8; James 2:24). The sphere of one's redemption – in Him. The apostle had just revealed that every spiritual blessing one can have and enjoy was found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). If all spiritual blessings are in Christ, how many are outside of Him? None! It is only through Jesus that mankind can be saved. Peter said, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Notice how many times Paul uses the expression "in Christ" or some similar words in Ephesians 1 (verses 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 20). We are not left to speculate on how one can get into Christ. The Scripture plainly reveals this valuable information to us. "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3)

The price paid for our redemption – His blood. This tells us it cost Jesus His life. He willingly suffered and died so that you and I could live. What an incredible act of love and grace. Paul said: "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8). Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Hebrews 9:22). Yet not just any blood would do; that of bulls and goats could not take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). It took the blood of the sinless Son of God to

redeem us from our iniquities (Hebrews 9:12). What a high price paid to obtain our salvation. Clearly, this is an indication of how much Jehovah loves us and the value which is placed on our souls (John 3:16). An explanation of redemption – the forgiveness of sins. The word “redemption” is defined as: “Deliverance on account of the ransom paid as spoken of the deliverance from the power and consequences of sin which Christ procured by laying down His life as a ransom for those who believe” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary – New Testament). Sin separates one from God the Father (Isaiah 59:1-2). All accountable to Jehovah are guilty of sin (Romans 3:10, 23). Those at Ephesus had been dead in trespasses and sins and needed forgiveness (Ephesians 2:1). We likewise need forgiveness because of our offenses; dead in those sins and need to be made alive. For one to obtain forgiveness it required the death and the shed blood of the Lamb of God (John 1:29). The message to those Jews on Pentecost who asked what they needed to do to be saved, “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). No matter the sin, if one will believe and obey the Lord, he can be forgiven. The basis of redemption – the riches of His grace. We certainly do not merit salvation. God owes us nothing and there is no way we can earn our redemption. We have no price with which to pay for even one sin we have committed. It is by the grace of the Almighty Father in heaven that we can be the beneficiaries of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He does indeed require faith on our part (Ephesian 2:8). Yet even when we express our faith by obedience, if not for grace, we would still die lost. Notice the use of the word “riches” in describing the grace of God. This means the abundance of grace and goodness which has been shown toward sinful men. What a truly amazing God we serve! Want to be saved? Your redemption is in Christ. He is source or author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9).

## **The Pit**

By Mike Thomas

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get out by himself. A feeler came along and said, 'I really feel for you down there.' A thinker walked by and said, 'It's illogical that someone would fall down there.' A Pharisee said, 'Only bad people fall into pits, you know.' A self-pitying person said, 'You haven't seen anything until you've seen my pit!' A preacher said, 'You deserve to fall into a pit.' A Christian Scientist said, 'The pit is all in your head.' A psychologist said, 'Your mother and father are to blame for your being in that pit.' An optimist said, 'Things could be

worse.' A pessimist said, 'Things will get worse.' A Christian came along, took him by the hand, and lifted him out of the pit.

I don't know who penned those words. They were taken from a poem entitled "The Pit," whose author is unknown to me. Nevertheless, I think the writer had an interesting perspective in noting the difference between professed compassion for others and genuine concern. The world is filled with people who claim to care about the person in a pit, but until someone actually reaches down and helps them out, they haven't made a difference in that person's life. It sounds similar to the parable Jesus taught on the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), when the priest and the Levite refused to help a man near death on the side of the road. They "passed by on the other side" because they did not want to be burdened with the inconvenience of caring for others. By contrast, a Samaritan came upon the same scene yet responded in "compassion" because of his genuine love for others. This was especially remarkable since the Jews and Samaritans despised one another as a whole (John 4:9). Yet this did not keep the Samaritan from having pity on a wounded soul. After highlighting the man's godly character, Jesus told His audience to "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). God wants His people to "do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).

This is another great lesson to learn from The Pit. People need our help, especially spiritually. It is not enough to feel bad for those whose lives are ravaged by sin. That concern alone does not help them out of the pit. We must actually reach down (in love and pity) and give them a chance to crawl out by extending the gospel to them. Paul explained it this way, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard...So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:13-14, 17). God has provided a way for all mankind to be saved from sin by hearing and obeying the gospel (Romans 1:16). However, this message must be taught from God's inspired word if sinners are to learn it. This is what Paul meant when he said God "has in due time manifested His word through preaching" (Titus 1:3). When men are in error, they need someone to take them aside and explain the way of God more accurately to them (Acts 18:26).

I may feel sorry for those outside of Christ, in the pit of sin, but until I look for ways to help them out, my pity will be of no benefit to them or God.

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Brenda has cataract surgery scheduled for Tuesday. Last week's surgery went well and helped greatly.
- Tom & Kate are traveling in Colorado and Nevada, planning to return sometime this week.
- Dave and Catherine are traveling in Georgia planning to return Wednesday this week
- Juanita, Brenda's aunt is recovering from a head injury from a fall.
- Elaine (friend of Brenda's family) is suffering from a broken hip. She is in Hawaii is expecting to be transported to Utah for surgery this week.
- Shirley Torres, Seattle WA (Torres' have visited our congregation) is fighting cancer. Chemo treatments have not been successful. They have decided to stop the Chemo and pursue other treatments to help enhance her quality of life.
- Kass' Grandmother has been diagnosed with Lung Cancer.
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Monday night bible class will be postponed till the first of July.

## Assignments

<b><u>Today</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – Ross Ward <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward
<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Tom Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – David Porter <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Next Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – David Porter <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### **Meeting Times:**

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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