

# What You've Been Redeemed From

By Daniel Orona

In 1 Corinthians 1:30 Paul tells us that Christ has been made unto us Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. What is that redemption that he has been made for us? What have we, who now believe, been redeemed from? There is one passage that explains this succinctly. It is Romans 8:1-4. Here, Paul says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made **me free from the law of sin and death**. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Verse 2 is the pivot point of this passage as we are made free from the law, sin and death. In order to fully understand what we have been redeemed from we must dive into each one of these and see the impact that they have in our lives.

The first aspect is what led to the fall of man back in the Garden of Eden. This quite simply was the law. In Genesis 2:15, the Bible says, Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." This was the one rule that God had for Adam in the garden and the only way that it would have been possible to transgress against God.

Paul in Romans 7 said that sin took occasion in us by the law. However, prior to the fall of Adam and Eve they were created without the original sin of Adam. What happened was the deceit of the serpent that caused sin to take occasion by the law to transgress the commandment of God leading to the fall of man in the garden. As Paul says, is the law sin? By no means is the law sin. The law displays the very character of God and His holiness. However, with the fall of Adam sin was able to occasion or opportunity in our flesh to transgress the law of God that no person in their own might could fulfill the law of God.

We must understand that the law of God is the mirror to show us our true selves. It is the law that condemns us to death due to our transgression of it in Adam. The law is that measuring stick. Paul puts this clearly in Romans 3:19-20. "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight for by the law is the knowledge of sin."

Sin takes opportunity by the law, to reap all manner of evil in our flesh. In the passage above, Paul says that our flesh is condemned in the law, meaning our very nature and aspects of self are all guilty before God. A lot of Christians think that they need to "follow" the law in order to "live" righteously. This is not true. It is not possible for us to fulfill the law and live according to it. If it was, then Christ never would have needed to come. As I said before the law is the mirror. When you look in your bathroom mirror and see that you have a dirty face, you don't take the mirror off the wall and start rubbing it on your face to clean it. You get soap and water and a washcloth to clean yourself. The water is the word, the soap is the blood of Jesus, and the washcloth is the Holy Spirit. These clean you and present you to the Father faultless.

Now that Christ has fulfilled the law in us, we are now free from the law of sin and death and reborn into the law of life of Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1-2 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit, For the

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law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." Once we believe in Christ the law has been fulfilled in us through Him. But I need to point to a caveat in what Paul said. It's in verse one where he says, "those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." Once you believe, Christ accepts you despite of how you are. He did that for all of us because we were all guilty under the law. Now once we believe, we must not follow our flesh, our needs, wants and desires, but rather the things of God whatever that may be. This is why it's so important to have a mentor that can help lead and guide you in the ways that God has for you. Learning this is difficult and it's all about building your relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Paul goes on in Romans 8:3-4 and says, "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." The fulfillment of the law is done in us through the righteousness of Christ and His work on the cross. However, while we are redeemed from the law, the flesh still needs to be dealt with. That will be addressed in a later article. The important thing to remember is that you are free from the law and condemnation and to be about the things of God in your life. Just because you are free from the law does not mean that we continue in the sin, but rather our actions are now directed by a relationship with Christ and the Holy Spirit. Paul really puts this to bed in Galatians 4:1-6 where he says, "Now I say that the heirs, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the Father. Even so we, when we were children were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

So, seeing that we are redeemed from the law, we can see that we are redeemed from sin in the same act. For with the removal of the law comes the removal of sin. Romans 4:13-15 says, "For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression." So, seeing that without the law there is no transgression then how are we redeemed from sin. Paul goes on and explains this in Romans 4:16-23, "Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed - God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your dependents be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead."

Understanding Paul, we see now that it is of faith that we receive righteousness according to the fulfillment of the law. This is the redemption from sin. Romans 10:9-10 Paul says, that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." So, seeing that if we believe and confess we see the redemption from sin. Now that does

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not give us the right to go and do whatever we want and to live how we want. Paul talks in Romans 6 how we must die to sin. Yes, faith in Christ gives us redemption, but our flesh still must be crucified and die so that sin does not continue to dwell in us. He wraps up that concept in Romans 6:12-14, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." We still allow sin to be dealt with in our flesh by allowing ourselves to be crucified with Christ. As Paul says in Romans 6, a dead man is no longer subject to the law, meaning a dead man cannot sin. The only way to see this in fulfillment is to see the death of self through the cross of Jesus Christ. We will go in depth on this topic in a subsequent article, but for now know that it is your faith in the death and resurrection of Christ that has redeemed you from sin.

The final piece of what we have been redeemed from is from death. Once the law is removed, sin is removed. And once sin is removed, death is removed. We have been called to life in Jesus Christ. Again the basis of this article is Romans 8 where Paul says, "for the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has freed me from the law of sin and death." Having been trapped in my own sin, I could see the very death of my spirit happening due to the condemnation that came on me due to my own actions. But seeing my redemption I am born again into life in Christ. It's not enough to just walk through the motions of this world. We need to be alive to Christ and living in His life in a oneness with Him and who He is.

Even more than this life we have an eternal life. Paul again talks about this in depth in 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, "Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up-if in fact the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, and had become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

Seeing this, we know then there is a resurrection of the dead and eternal life in Christ, an everlasting hope of Christ. Paul finishes 1 Corinthians 15:56-58 like this, "The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain."

You have been redeemed from the law, from sin and from death. This gives us new life in Christ that we may live into the fullness of who He is and grow into the measure and the stature of who He is. It is now our responsibility to offer ourselves to Him, holy and acceptable, through the work that He did on the cross, which is our reasonable service.