

**Reality Series:** “Jesus The Redeemer”

**Date:** 3/26/17

**Text:** Colossians 1:3-24

**Big Idea:** “Jesus Has Redeemed Us From Our Sin And Redeems Us For A Life of Faith, Hope and Love.”

### **Introduction:**

#### **Exposition:**

##### **Colossians 1:1-23**

1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.

2 We are writing to **God’s holy people** in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

May God our Father give you grace and peace.

3 We always pray for you, and **we give thanks** to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For **we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus** and **your love for all of God’s people**, 5 which come from your **confident hope** of what God has **reserved for you** in heaven. You have had this **expectation** ever since you first heard the truth of the **Good News**.

6 This same Good News (Redemption!!!) that came to you is going out all over the world. It is **bearing fruit** everywhere by **changing lives**, just as it **changed your lives** from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

7 You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ’s faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. 8 He has told us about the love for others that the **Holy Spirit has given you**.

9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you **complete knowledge** of his will and to give you **spiritual wisdom** and understanding. 10 Then **the way you live** will always **honor** and **please** the Lord, and **your lives will produce every kind of good fruit**. All the while, **you will grow** as you learn to know God better and better.

11 We also pray that **you will be strengthened** with all his **glorious power** so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be **filled with joy**, 12 always **thanking the Father**. He has enabled you to **share in the inheritance** that belongs to his people, **who live in the light**. 13 For he has **rescued us from** the kingdom of darkness and **transferred us** into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who **purchased our freedom** and **forgave our sins**.

#### **Jesus the Righteous**

Last week Pastor Billy taught about this. He showed us through the Scriptures that at one time we were cut off from God because of our sinful nature. But, God extended to us his forgiveness of our sins and clothed us with His righteousness. God’s righteousness is his commitment and fidelity to his promises to His people. He did this the moment we put our faith and trust in Jesus. When we placed our trust in Jesus we took on his character, qualities and nature.

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(1) What Jesus Has Redeemed Us From...

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- (2) What Jesus Has Redeemed Us For...

### **Jesus the Redeemer**

This week I get to talk about Jesus, the Redeemer. The word “Redeem” may be a new word for you, but it is a familiar concept.

**apolutrōsis**=(to release on payment of ransom; a release effected by payment of ransom.”)

#### **I. What Jesus Has Redeemed Us From (vv.13-14)**

A. Jesus has **Rescued** us from the Kingdom of Darkness

1. We needed to be rescued!

a. . The Door Had to Be Opened From the Outside!

b. We don't have to live enslaved anymore to our previous way of life.

B. Jesus has Transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.

1. This Kingdom doesn't look anything like the old Kingdom

a. We were Slaves in the old Kingdom...

b. In the New Kingdom we are Sons and Daughters!

c. “Slaves don't return to slavery!”- Billy Hunter

d. We don't have to live like this anymore.

1d. There May be a part of me that may still desire that sin, but that part of me is dead in Christ!

2d. **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2. This new Kingdom Jesus has brought us into is full of His Peace.

a. **Shalom**- Peace, Wholeness, Wellness of Body, Soul, Mind and Spirit.

b. Verse of Peace...

c. This New Kingdom doesn't resemble at all the Kingdom of Darkness

C. He has **Redeemed** us!

1. Jesus didn't just redeem us from the consequences of our sin, but from its power over us.

2. He didn't come to earth and die on a cross so we would be better people. He died on the cross so that we would be rescued

completely from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of the Son He loves.

3. Jesus is not all that interested in making you a better person. He wants to redeem all of you!

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4. He redeemed us to transform us entirely  
a. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

D. What Jesus Has Redeemed Us From

1. Let's take some time and get precise about what Jesus Redeemed Us from.  
a. Generalities are a good place to hide.  
b. Jesus died for my lustful heart... objectifying men or women... my explosive anger... my misuse of power... my spiritual pride... greed... apathy (and those are just)

2. License  
a. Living my life with no restraint and not fear of consequences.  
b. Living as if I am the Master of My Fate!

3. Legalism (Guilt & Shame)  
a. Grew up in homes and churches who convinced you were right with God unless you were living perfectly.  
b. Shame versus Guilt-  
1b. Guilt- "I did something bad..."  
2b. Shame- "I am bad..."  
b. You grew believing you had to earn God's favor. Grace was spoken of as a theological concept but it wasn't lived out.  
c. Even insidious because it has Religious sounding terminology.  
d. **1 Corinthians 1:30-31** It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."  
e. **Ephesians 1:7-8a** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace & that he lavished on us.

written:

4. Self-Absorption/Self-Focus/Self-Preservation/Self-Serving  
a. **Augustine- *Incurvatus in se*** ("Turned/curved inward on oneself")  
1b. "Scoliosis of the Soul".  
2b. The Gospel is the reversal of the Inward Curvature of Sin!  
b. **Illustration:** Boomerang (We do this in conversation) Moving the Conversation back to yourself, rather than giving your heart and attention to the other person as gift.  
c. **Illustration:** Rob Zombie describes the progression, or regression of the Concert Experience.  
1c. People watch performers.

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2c. People look at screens of performers.

3c. People turn back to performers and take selfies of themselves singing the song (*We are becoming narcissistic in our culture. Everything is ourselves.*).

increasingly  
curved in upon

d. **Illustration:** Insecurity From Preaching

Concern about connecting with you. I can get obsessed about what I am going to say and experience a curvature inward leads to anxiety or whatever rather than expressing God's Word with you.

which  
the gift of

1d. He saved me from that! I don't have to be that way anymore!

2d. I can simply live in the reality that I am a Son of the Most High God.

## II. What We Have Been Redeemed For (vv.3-12)

A. Redeemed For A Life of *Faith, Hope, Love* (The Colossians understood for what they had been redeemed)

1. Their Faith (our faith) in the person of Jesus Christ, not in a religious system! (v.4)

2. Love for all of God's people (v.4)

a. A love that looked beyond their own community and into the larger Church!

b. By Extension the Universal Church

3. Confident **Hope** Reserved for you in Heaven (v.5).

a. Hope- Not wishful thinking, but a Firm Assurance!

b. Can't be tampered with in this life (1 Peter 1:3-5).

4. The Effects of the Good News (Gospel) is Growth and Bearing Fruit (v.6)

(v.

a. One of the ways it was growing and bearing fruit was through their lives.

b. God's Redemptive Work is Challenging!

1b. It may involve suffering. Let me rephrase that, it will involve suffering!

2b. Jesus's redemptive work required the laying down of his life.

3b. **Ex:** Suffering of Reality Churches

c. FRUIT HAPPENS When We Abide In Him!

1c. **John 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; from me you can do nothing.

apart

d. The Colossians understood God's grace and truth

1d. They took hold of it, not just as an intellectual concept- they internalized it!

intellectual concept-

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2d. Matt 13- "Parable of the Soils"

*The Colossians were the good soil which entered into their  
lives deeply, took root and produced a huge crop!*

3c. Power is in the Seed ("Gospel")

4c. And, this Power was taking expression through their  
lives.

e. God may have called you into a situation that involves Jesus the  
Redeemer showing up in you, a situation where Jesus has called  
you to bring redemption to the situation.

B. Redeemed To Live As A Son and Daughter

1. Living not earning the favor of God, but living according to it!
2. Choose to live the way of Christ. In doing so we will live free of the stuff  
that used to hold us in bondage.
3. I am only beginning to learn what this means after decades of walking  
with Jesus. I learn something new everyday. Even though I know  
Jesus has redeemed me I am continuing to experience what it  
means to walk in this truth.
4. **Colossians 1:23** But you must continue to believe this truth and stand  
firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when  
you heard the Good News.

E. Redeemed To Live A Life Of Worship & Fellowship (*Whole Counsel of  
Scripture*)

1. **Exodus 9:1** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and  
say to him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews,  
says: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me."'
2. **Quote:** "The Chief End of Man is to Worship God and Enjoy Him  
Forever." (*Westminster Shorter Catechism*)
3. Give yourself fully and regularly to Jesus!
4. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus  
to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
  - a. Let your life be a hymn of **Faith, Hope, Love**.
5. Not A Life Of Doing, But A Life Of BEING with Him!
  - a. Some of you are recovering from a life of doing. You Don't have  
to live this way anymore!!!
  - b. There is nothing you can do to make Jesus love you any more!  
He has already rescued and redeemed.
  - c. Now you just need to live in that Reality!

F. Redeemed For An Eternal Life with God (v.5)

\***Ephesians 1:3-10** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus  
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**\*Ephesians 1:3-10** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

### (WE)

What would it look like if we actually lived fully as God's Redeemed People?  
The

When We live this way, the redeemed God received the Glory and...

### Reflection Questions:

*(Transition: We are going to do something a little different right now. I am not going to ask you to pray in groups. There are going to be some questions on the screen that we would like you to reflect on this morning as we focus on Jesus the Redeemer.)*

- To what degree do you feel you are fully experiencing living as a son or daughter in His Kingdom? What needs to be changed/shifted in you? What needs to be encouraged?
- In what ways are you curved inward upon yourself right now? In what areas of your life are you Self-Absorbed? Self-Focused? Self-Preserving? Self-Serving?
- What does the Redeemer need to touch in your life? What will your life look like as you live as His redeemed child?
- What new fruit are you expecting God to produce collectively through Reality Church Ventura?

**Testimony:** Evan and Kristen- Story of how Jesus the Redeemer has touched my life.

### Benediction:

**Colossians 1:11-14** We also pray that **you (Reality Church) will be strengthened** with all his **glorious power** so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be **filled with joy**, 12 always **thanking the Father**. He has enabled you to **share in the inheritance** that belongs to (you) his people, who live in the light. 13 **For** he has **rescued** (past tense) us from the kingdom of darkness and **transferred us** into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who **purchased our freedom** (past tense) and **forgave our sins** (past tense)

