

Salvation/Deliverance From Our Creator/Redeemer

Pt. 4

**This series was taught at North Christian Church, leading up to a marvelous series on "The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification". www.nccdighton.org*

Let's bask in the glory of God's Word, as we would bask in the sun on a warm summer day.

We've spent a lot of time in our last message seeing the importance of acknowledging God as the Creator.

In fact, it's a part of the fullness of the Gospel, which includes repentance towards God.

Our main passage, which brings out acknowledgment of God as both Creator and Redeemer, has been **Acts 20:21**.

Acts 20:21 *"solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

This was the Apostle Paul's pattern when giving the Gospel, to any man!

In fact, this was the same pattern of our Lord Jesus, and the other apostles.

Acts 20:21 AMP *"But constantly and earnestly I bore testimony both to Jews and Greeks, urging them to turn in repentance*

[that is due] to God and to have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ [that is due Him].

Up to this point, we've been talking about man rightly humbling Himself before His Creator, both before and after the day of salvation.

Humility From Recognizing God's Sovereignty; As you look into the sky on a clear, starry night, step back and fathom that our God and Creator spread out the infinite universe with His fingers, Isa 40:12, AFTER He created it all by just saying the word! Gen 1, Psa 33:6,9, 148:5.

Ps 33:8-9 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

There again we see the appropriate fear and awe due to God our Creator.

When we have that humility, we can then grow by His grace and be sanctified. May we never forget, **it's His grace that takes us there!**

Anything good about us, any growth in us, is all because of His grace towards us!

Awe and respect for our Creator is essential in surrendering to Him as our Redeemer, as well. In fact, it's really two sides of the same coin, as we saw in **Acts 20:21**.

As we have seen, they are One and the same God.

Our God and Creator wants to save us from sin, and deliver us to righteousness. In fact, that's what Christ did for us on the cross. As our Redeemer, He died for sin, and then He rose from the grave for righteousness! Rom 4:25

His death and resurrection are the literal deliverance from sin to righteousness!

In other words, Jesus took us and carried us from sin to righteousness!

Rom 4:25 *He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised **because of our justification**.*

There we see the coin flipping in our Lord's life, so to speak.

Jesus became a sin offering on our behalf and He took our judgment upon Himself, but then He rose victoriously in righteousness.

What God's love did for us is incomprehensible by our limited, human minds.

His unspeakable love motivated Him to leave Heaven for us and willingly suffer for our sakes...

... so that He could declare those who would believe to be "righteous", and therefore we could live with Him forever in Heaven!

God's love motivated Him to save us sinners so that we could live with Him forever. Rest on that.

2 Cor 5:21 *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

We have been saved from sin, and delivered to righteousness, by the grace of God! We've been saved and sanctified, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. And God continues to perform a good work in those who believe. Phil 1:6, 2:13

But until a person acknowledges God as his Creator, he is stuck in deception and he is blind to the Truth.

Until one acknowledges his own guilt before a holy and righteous God, he will not turn to Christ for redemption, at least not from the heart.

Roman chapter 1 speaks about God-consciousness being the first step in the conversion process.

If one doesn't even believe in or "acknowledge" God as his Creator, there's nowhere they can go! That's because WITHOUT HUMILITY there's no good soil in which the fruit of faith can grow. Rom 1:28

The conversion process begins with repentance towards God; humbly admitting one's own sinfulness before Him.

In sharing the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this is essential, as we have seen in our studies.

Rom 1:18-23 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*

Here we see the Bible predicted 2000 years ago the foolishness men would enter into with the theory of evolution today.

And while we are messengers, only God can change the heart of a man.

We must remember this as we do the work of evangelists.

Rom 1:28 *And just as they did not see fit to **acknowledge** God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

This is why a righteous, holy fear of God is a very good thing, even essential, both before and after our salvation.

We might think because there is ‘no fear in love’, 1Jo 4:18, that we should not fear God. But in context, ‘no fear in love’ refers to having no fear in this world because you know you are perfectly loved by God.

1 John 4:15-18 *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (God’s love is as steady as the sun. It never stops shining.)*

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected (matured) in love.

This truth was clarified by Jesus when He told us to NOT FEAR MAN who can only destroy the body, but we SHOULD FEAR GOD who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

In other words...

Whom To Fear: There is no fearing man if we know how fully we are loved by God, but the one we rightly fear is God Himself, who has the authority over life and death and judgment. Luke 12:4-5

Our Lord Jesus Himself instructed his disciples towards this appropriate fear of God:

Luke 12:4-5 *"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. 5 "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"*

I remind you, in context, **Jesus said this to His disciples, His friends**, not to a bunch of unbelievers.

Here are a couple on interesting perspectives on this verse:

Adam Clarke on Luke 12:5: *"[Fear him] Even the friends of God are commanded to fear God, as a being who has authority to send both body and soul into hell. Therefore it is proper even for the most holy persons to maintain a fear of God, as the punisher of all unrighteousness. A man has but one life to lose, and one soul to save; and it is madness to sacrifice the salvation of the soul to the preservation of the life."*

John Calvin on Luke 12:5: *"Christ must be viewed as saying, that when we give way to the dread of men, we pay no respect*

to God; and that if on the contrary we fear God, we have an easy victory in our hands, so that no efforts of men will draw us aside from our duty."

Some good things to think about!

But then in **Luke 12**, Jesus goes on to tell His disciples they are more valuable to God than many sparrows and the very hairs of their heads are all numbered; illustrating the perfect love and care the Father has for us as His children.

How can God be so powerful and rightly feared and yet be so loving and caring and gentle?! It's an eternal mystery, but that's our God!

We will never fully understand that in this life, but let's pause and thank God HE IS WHO HE IS!

So, why such a harsh statement from our Lord to His friends in **Luke 12:5**?

Maybe He was saying; "Don't forget the One you serve! Don't forget His perfect power and authority!"

That reality will keep us humble and give us the faith to serve God without hesitation, even in the face of the threats of man.

Now, as believers, we are being perfected in the love of God, and because we abide in Him through the love of Christ, we can

have confidence in the day of judgment, as the Apostle John tells us.

But let's never forget where we came from, nor the sovereignty of God!

Even after our day of salvation, we are called to keep an appropriate fear of God our Creator, as we've seen in **Phil 2**.

We must always remember our place. Our lives are temporary and totally in His hands.

"You only come this way once", as my dear Pastor Collins has often said.

We have only one life to live, so what will we make of the rest of our days?

Just think of Ananias and Sapphira in **Acts 5**! They were taken out by God for lying to His Holy Spirit!

And it says the people then greatly feared the Lord.

If we live our lives for ourselves, God might take us out early...
OR we can live for God and others, in the fear of God, and bring Him maximum glory with this one precious life He's granted us.

What will protect us from going down the wrong road?

Well, hopefully you see it by now....

It is good and right to have fear for Christ and God. Eph 5:21, Ecc 12:13

Eph 5:21 *and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*

Some people might ask; why should we have a “fear” of Christ? Doesn't He love us so much that He died for us? Doesn't He treat us in grace?

Yes! Amen!

And yet, we are told to live our lives in a proper fear and respect for Christ, simply because of Who He really is, our God and Savior and Redeemer.

Ecc 12:13-14 *The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*

The pattern remains the same. (2 sides of the same coin)

As the Bible tells us over and over: Fear God, and live! Fear your Creator and turn to your Redeemer for true life.

In other words: Repent and believe. Confess and press on.

We are saved FROM sin and delivered TO righteousness our whole lives when we live in the Gospel reality.

Our series title has been: ***Salvation/Deliverance From Our Creator/Redeemer.***

Let's close out this series today, by transitioning from the Creator to the Redeemer, even though they are two sides of the same God.

Isa 44:24 *Thus says the Lord, your **Redeemer**, and the one who formed you from the womb,*

*"I, the Lord, am the **maker** of all things,*

Stretching out the heavens by Myself

And spreading out the earth all alone,

Isa 48:17-18 *Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,*

"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit,

Who leads you in the way you should go.

18 "If only you had paid attention to My commandments!

*Then your **well-being** would have been like a river,*

*And your **righteousness** like the waves of the sea.*

The FREEDOM which the Redeemer purchased for us includes not only the gift of eternal life, but also an ongoing deliverance and opportunity to live a life of righteousness. He

is moving us from salvation to sanctification, and ultimate sanctification in heaven! Eph 1:3-14, Tit 2:11-14

Eph 1:3-14 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our

inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Titus 2:11-14 *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

We believers are called to listen to the commands of our Redeemer, and if we do so, we will be sanctified and set apart for Him MORE FULLY in this life, to the glory of God.

But will it be a push or pull model? In other words, will we go along stubbornly, or willingly?

We all have a flesh, an old nature, and our flesh is naturally arrogant! We must beware of its negative influence within us!

But now that our Redeemer has walked the earth and purchased our freedom by His blood, we can now follow Him and live the life of freedom He died for!

Gal 3:11-14 *Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." 12*

*However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, "HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM." 13 Christ **redeemed** us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE" — 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

The righteous man, in God's eyes, is the one living by faith, and that's faith in the Redeemer...

... faith in the One who saved us at the moment of salvation AND the One who continues to save us as we live in the eternal life He purchased for us. (as we live in the Gospel reality)

The original Greek word for '**redeemed**' in **Gal 3:13** is **exagorazo**; to buy up, i.e. ransom; figuratively, to rescue from loss (improve opportunity).

Here again we see the **flipping of the coin**, in redemption also!

In other words, there's a **movement**, out from slavery to sin and into the freedom of the children of God.

And redemption doesn't stop at the paying of a ransom; it also gives opportunity for a new life!

And our new life is to be lived by faith in the Son of God.

Gal 2:20-21 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. **And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.** 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

1 Peter 1:17-21 *If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, **conduct yourselves in fear** during the time of your stay on earth; 18 knowing that you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

Because our Redeemer was raised from the dead, we can have and live with an ACTIVE faith and hope in God!

We not only have salvation, but also an active deliverance/movement towards sanctification, which we can enjoy every day! (remember, sanctification means to be set apart for God/made holy)

Our God and Father is so faithful and He is constantly working on we believers and making us pure.

The Bible tells us He is continually making us righteous and holy, and that is a joyous thing to see when we step back and look at what God has already done in our lives.

Amen?!

1 Peter 2:24 *and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and **live to righteousness**; for by His wounds you were healed.*

Our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, took us from sin and delivered us to righteousness!

When we place our trust in Jesus, He flips the coin in our life, and we are now called to a life of freedom and righteousness.

Rom 6:18-23, 1Pe 2:24

Rom 6:18-23 *and having been freed **from sin**, you became slaves **of righteousness**. 19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For*

the outcome of those things is death. 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There we can see the unity of salvation and sanctification.

By grace, God promises to finish what He started in us (**Phil 1:6,2:13**), and we have the opportunity to maximize the freedom He has purchased for us, for the glory of our precious Redeemer.

God is good, my friends. He has a plan for us and He NEVER leaves us alone.

As we saw in **Rom 4:25**, He died for our sins and was raised for our justification, to declare us innocent and righteous!

Our Redeemer delivered us, and still delivers us. Deliverance is a movement by God in the lives of those who believe. 2Co 1:10

2 Cor 1:9-10 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

From the day of our salvation, our very life is being rescued from the pit, each and every day. The Lord saves us every day!

Ps 103:2-4 *Bless the Lord, O my soul,*

And forget none of His benefits;

3 Who pardons all your iniquities,

Who heals all your diseases;

*4 Who **redeems** your life from the pit,*

As the Redeemer, the Lord purchased our freedom from the slave market of sin, but He didn't stop there!

What did He then do? He set us FREE. He gave us a new life to live.

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free”, Gal 5:1a.

We can now live a life of deliverance, and of righteousness, by ongoing faith in the Redeemer.

Our final passage today will be **Ps 34**, which is a good summary of everything we've been focusing on this message.

Ps 34:1 *“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul will make its boast in the Lord; The humble will hear it and rejoice. 3 O magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.*

4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him And saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

*8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! 9 **O fear the Lord, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want.** 10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any good thing. 11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. 12 Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.*

*15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 **The Lord is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.***

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all. 20 He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken. 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who

*hate the righteous will be condemned. 22 **The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.***

Isn't that incredibly wonderful?!

We might want to read that again.

In closing, our Redemption through Christ is much like this story...

There is a story about a man who went down to the slave block to buy a slave girl. As she looked at the rich man bidding on her, she figured he was another selfish man who was going to buy her and abuse her.

He won the bid, and as he was walking away with his new property, he said, "Young lady, you are free."

She said, "What does that mean?"

"It means you are free." He said.

"Does that mean," she said, "that I can say whatever I want to say?"

The gentleman said, " Yes, my dear, you can say whatever you want to say."

"Does that mean," she said, "that I can be whatever I want to be?"

He said, "Yes, you can be whatever you want to be."

"Does that mean that I can go wherever I want to go?"

He said, "Yes, you can go wherever you want to go."

The girl, with tears streaming down her face, said, "Then I will go with you."