

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think some people see the cross as foolishness?
- Has your heart been drawn to Christ? Take a minute to thank God for the merciful work of the Spirit in your life.

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Let's recap for the week: First, we know that we are born slaves to sin and we need a Redeemer. Second, Jesus' blood on the cross paid for sin and purchased spiritual freedom, or "redemption." Third, that redemption is not for everyone but only for those who put their faith in Christ for salvation. Finally, it is the Holy Spirit who graciously and effectually turns people's hearts and applies Christ's redemption to them. That is how any of us become "partakers" of the many blessings of life as a Child of God. I pray that each one of you would hear the truth of the gospel and believe that you would partake with me of the deep riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:13–14 says *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, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

Discussion Questions

- What other ways do you partake in the blessings and graces of God?
- Share how God brought salvation to you. If you have no part in salvation, share any questions you may have.

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, April 14th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #32

Q: How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

A: *We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.*

Suggested Memory Verse

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...
(ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week our question covers aspects of redemption. Who purchased it and how? Who is it for? Who applies it to us? Why does it matter? So, let's cover two terms to be clear on what is being taught in scripture. First, what is a "partaker"? If you reverse the two parts of this word, it's easy to remember it is someone who **takes part** in something, particularly something shared with others. When you sit down to eat with your family or friends, you partake of the meal together. Secondly, what is "redemption"? The word redeem means "to buy out." In the Bible, this term is used specifically when purchasing a slave's freedom. Spiritually speaking, God has purchased our freedom from slavery to sin (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:14-18), and it comes with many benefits including eternal life (Revelation 5:9-10), forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7), being made righteous (Romans 5:17), freedom from the law's curse (Galatians 3:13), adoption into God's family (Galatians 4:5), peace with God (Colossians 1:18-20), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The question is, how do we become a "partaker" of this redemption? Psalm 111:9 says *He sent redemption to his people*, and in our memory verse John 1:12 *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*. This week we will unpack some more of what that means.

Discussion Question

- Have you ever signed up for something you wanted to participate in (partake in)? What was it and why did you want to be included?
- There is no sign-up sheet for redemption, so how can someone be included in the forgiveness Christ has purchased?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Our question states redemption is purchased by Christ. Scripture says that God *sent redemption to his people* (Psalm 111:9). Before the Earth was even created, there was a plan of salvation and redemption of God's people. This plan included sending His son Jesus to be born as a human, live a sinless perfect life, and die on the cross for us. Hebrews 9:12 says that Jesus *entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of **his own blood**, thus securing an eternal redemption*. The blood of bulls and goats would never be enough; we needed *the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot* (1 Peter 1:19) to pay for sin. This is why we refer to Jesus as our Redeemer. Many in the world do not want to admit they need a redeemer. They say, "I am innocent; surely his anger has turned from me," but God says there is only one way and He *will bring you to judgment for saying, 'I have not sinned'* (Jeremiah 2:35). If we say we are not sinners, then we do not belong to God and we have no part in Him (1 John 1:9). We do need a redeemer, and there is only one. 1 Corinthians 3:11 says *For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ*. God has sent redemption through His Son, and any other attempt to get redemption fails.

Discussion Questions

- What other kinds of things do people try in order to be "OK" with God?
- Why is Jesus called our Redeemer?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Christ purchased redemption, but for whom? When the catechism says "we," it is referring to Christians who have been redeemed. Not everyone in the world is included in this redemption. Speaking of unbelievers, Acts 8:21 says *You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God*. Their hearts have not been changed by the Holy Spirit, they do not have faith in Jesus, and they have no part in this redemption that is for the elect. A Christian's assurance comes from the scriptures, including our memory verse that reminds us that those who believe and have faith in Jesus are given the right to become children of God (1 John 1:12). We get to share in the things of Christ (Hebrews 3:14) if we are partakers of His redemption, and this is not something we can earn for ourselves. Ephesians 2:8-10 sums it up nicely: *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*.

Discussion Questions

- Did Jesus redeem everyone from their sin?
- Did Jesus redeem you? How can you know?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The work of redemption is a great and effective work that is applied to God's people through the work of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:19-20 refers to *the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places*. Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon or looked at the starry sky and marveled at just how big it is? How much greater is God and His power that we can't even begin to comprehend even a fraction of what he has done for us! In His power, God applied redemption to us because it simply was not possible for us to have it otherwise. The gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing (1 Corinthians 1:18). But, by God's amazing grace, the Holy Spirit lifts the veil, changes hearts, and applies redemption to the elect. In book three of the Institutes, Calvin says, the "Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself." It must be so, for "as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us." John 6:63 says *It is the Spirit who gives life*.