

What The Bible Says About

What God Does *To Us* At The Point Of Salvation



Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

4038 Graham Sherron Rd
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Pastor David Buffaloe
Home 919-562-9456 Cell 919-600-4925
online at bibleteacher.org

Every now and then I will hear a song on the radio that really takes me back to my youth. Just the other day I was listening and heard:

**Why do birds suddenly appear
Every time you are near
Just like me, they long to be,
Close to you.**

I remember that one of the most popular groups of the 1970s - my teenage years - was called *The Carpenters*. **Karen Carpenter** and her brother **Richard** were richly blessed by God. Very talented, they won *six* Grammy Awards for their songs. By 1981 the Carpenters sold *over 55 million records*. They were literally, as they sang, "On Top Of The World", except for one thing. **Karen** had an eating disorder called **Anorexia Nervosa**.



In this disorder the person - obsessively focusing on themselves and their weight - stops eating. Karen went from being a beautiful healthy and talented young lady, filled with promise, to a person who eventually died bed bound, weighing less than 80 pounds - a skeleton of her former self. It broke my heart to hear of her death. She was only 32 years old.

The dictionary says that **Anorexia Nervosa** is a disorder characterized by fear of becoming fat and refusal of food, leading to debility and even death. In Anorexia

Nervosa the person freely chooses *not* to eat, regardless as to what their body is telling them. It is estimated that *8 million* Americans suffer from this disease. (S.C. Department of Mental Health)

The Pastor of Dallas First Baptist Church, **Dr. Mac Brunson** in his book *Why Churches Die* writes:

"The affliction of anorexia ... is no light hearted matter. If left unabated, the victim will die from complications related to anorexia ... In the spiritual realm, Christians who suffer from anorexia ... are slowly starved to death in the passive sense. One of the markers of salvation is a hunger and thirst for God's Word. At the embryonic stages of Christianity, the young convert devours the Bible, usually reading copious amounts of Scripture at each setting. ... Then slowly and imperceptibly, the initial thrust of interest begins to ebb. ... One young man in Kentucky came forward in his Church one Sunday ... This Sunday he was saved. As he stood before the Church and the Pastor presented him ... tears streamed down his face ... an elderly woman whom everybody called "Aunt Louise" walked by and shook his hand. "Are you crying, my dear?" she asked. "Yes, Ma'am," he answered. "I am just so happy to be saved!" She smiled a small smile, and said, "Well, you'll get over it".

The lady is a *spiritual anorexic*, and local Churches are filled to the brim with them. God first said to an early Church filled with Jewish Christians:

Hebrews 5:12-14 ^(NASB) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

The devil would love to keep you as spiritual anorexics, but your Father wants you **to grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)**. He wants His people growing and building up in the knowledge of His Word.

The person who only eats physical food once a week will eventually become bed bound and may very well die. The Christian who only eats from the Word of God once a week, with an occasional special day like *Christmas* and *Easter*, will find themselves spiritually bed bound and perhaps eventually dead.

God has given every believer more riches than we even know. **Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer** in his book *Salvation: God's Marvelous Work of Grace* details *thirty three things that every Christian receives on the day he is saved*. I've given you a copy of these thirty three things - it's in the center of this booklet.

God has richly equipped every Christian, and has given to us **"exceeding abundantly above all that we**

ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us (Ephesians 3:20). If we as believers become spiritually anorexic or ineffective, the fault is not with God - but with us.

We don't have time to look at all that God has done for us as Christians, but I do want to look at **the Three R's of our faith**. These R's are "**Redeemed, Reconciled, and Related**". Let's see what the Bible has to say about these things.

As A Christian, I Am "Redeemed"

Illustrate What does it mean to be "redeemed"? While handing a 25 cent-off coupon to the supermarket clerk at the checkout counter a woman inadvertently missed her hand, and the coupon slipped beneath the scale and was gone. The checker looked distressed the shopper said, "**That's OK, it's in coupon heaven now.**" The checker replied, "**Coupon heaven?**" "**Yes,**" the woman said, "**That's where coupons go when they die.**" The checker smiled and said, "**Well, only the redeemed ones!**"

The word "**redeemed**" according to Webster's Dictionary means "**to buy back from the rightful owner, to free from captivity by payment of ransom, to change for the better, to free from a debt rightfully due**".

The Bible teaches us that every person who has ever been born is in bondage both *positionally* as well as

actually. This was not God's choice for us, but a choice that we freely made.

The Bible tells us that God originally designed Adam and Eve - two perfect humans with perfect free will - and put them in the midst of a perfect environment called Eden. They were given perfect jobs, and perfect control. We read:

Genesis 1:26, 28 God said, **Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ... God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

Man was placed over the world, and he was to **subdue and have dominion over all things**. By *position* Adam was in charge of everything, and was to oversee it under the authority of the Lord Who created him.



The Bible tells us that Satan came into the Garden of Eden and enticed Adam to *reject God's leadership in order to follow him*. Adam turned his back on God's

truth to follow Satan's fabricated lies.

When he did that Adam **lost his position as head over creation**. The Bible says:

1 Timothy 2:14 ... Adam was not deceived ...

Word Study That word "deceived" is the Aorist Passive of the Greek (απαταω Pronounced *ap-at-ah'-o*), which means "**to cheat, deceive, or delude**". Adam made his decision freely. He heard what Satan had to say, pondered it, then freely decided to follow Satan rather than God. He traded his God given dominion over all things to Satan. **Dr. Miles Munroe** in his book *Rediscovering the Kingdom* wrote:

"When Adam fell through his act of treason, he did not only lose his personal relationship with his Heavenly Father, but he lost a kingdom. Adam became an ambassador without portfolio, and envoy without official status, a citizen without a country, a king without a kingdom, a ruler without a domain".

Adam by his act *lost his position of dominion over all things*. He sold himself to the devil. Losing his *position* something else also happened. The Bible tells us:

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

When Adam gave his position as ruler to Satan, he also acquired an *Old Sin Nature*.

Everyone has an Old Sin Nature. How do we know this? The Scripture says (1) because *everybody sins* and (2) *because everybody dies*.

That's the bad news. The good news is this. **God Himself came to redeem us from Satan and Sin**. We are told:

Romans 5:18-19 Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Redemption is something that *only God can do*. Why?

Adam sold himself and *all his children* down the river of sin. The children of Adam became sinners who followed the nature of Satan. Humanity - like Satan - one and all rebelled against God. The child of Adam violates God's Laws without regard and without care. This is no light hearted thing, the violation of God's Law. **Dr. Donald Guthrie** said that

"{sin} is a debt, a burden, a thief, a sickness, a leprosy, a plague, a poison, a serpent, a sting: everything that man hates it is; a load of curses, and calamities beneath whose crushing, most intolerable

pressure, the whole creation groaneth.... Who is {he} that digs man a grave? Who is the painted temptress that steals his virtue? Who is the murderess that destroys his life? Who is this sorceress that first deceives, and then damns his soul? Sin. Who with icy breath, {rots} the fair blossoms of youth? Who breaks the hearts of parents? Who brings old men's gray hairs with sorrow to the grave? Sin. "Who ... changes gentle children into vipers, tender mothers into monsters, and their fathers into worse than Herods, the murderers of their own innocents? Sin. .. Who lights the torch of war, and bears it blazing over trembling lands? Who by division in the church, rends Christ's seamless robe? Sin. .. Who turns the soft and gentlest heart to stone? Who hurls reason from her lofty throne, and impels sinners, mad as Gadarene swine, down the precipice, into a lake of fire? Sin" (cited in Elan Foster's New Cyclopedia of Prose Illustrations [N.Y.: T.Y. Crowell, 1877], p. 696).

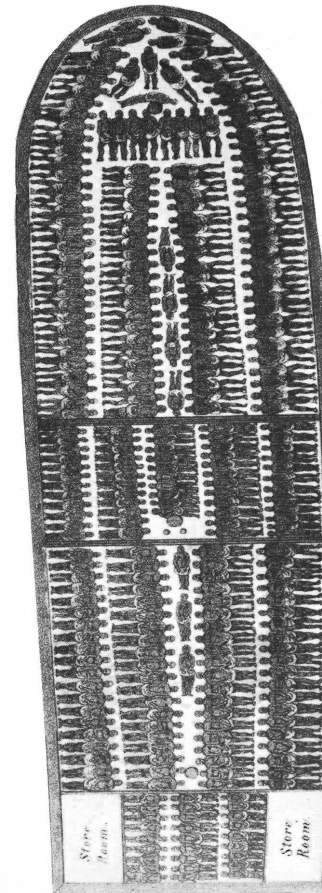


Illustrate Sin rules mankind with an iron hand. It brings with it a blindness. Why would a man - knowing the various diseases that illicit sexual acts can bring - embrace that monster to his

breast? Why would a young person with all the evidence of destroyed lives that drug abuse can bring decide to smoke that pipe or push that needle into her arm? **Years ago I knew a beautiful woman who was married to a handsome man.** Together they had a very precious little boy and two beautiful daughters. This woman turned to drugs, and today sells the body that was once embraced by a loving man to any man who will come, just so she

can get one more "fix". Oh that she would come to Christ and be saved. Jesus said:

John 8:34-36 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. **35** And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. **36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.



We were all in the slave market of sin, and Satan would love to keep as many there as he can. The slaver ships would pack as many people into the hold of the ship as possible (see to the left). They cared little if any died - just keep as many as they can. In like manner, Satan cares nothing for people - he just wants to keep them enslaved.

Jesus Christ our Lord came to redeem whosoever will from the slave market of sin.

Titus 2:13-14 ... the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Jesus Christ also redeemed us from the curse of the

Law. We were under the curse because we violated God's Law.

Galatians 3:13-14 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

We could not be saved until our indebtedness to both Satan as well as God were satisfied. Jesus Christ satisfied that indebtedness for us. His Blood redeemed us who believe from Satan, from sin, and from the Law that we violated. We are **purchased and precious possessions** because of faith in Christ. We no longer belong to Satan nor to sin.

The anorexic Christian is not aware of this, but you should be. You belong to God, not to sin nor Satan. You have been redeemed. _____

As A Christian, I Am "Reconciled"

Before we were saved by faith in Christ the Scripture teaches that we were **"the enemies of God"**. Why were we enemies of God.

1 We were enemies because we were **sinners**, separated from God. All men are sinners - we saw this as

we studied redemption. However before we met Christ as Savior we were **sinners who sinned against God and did not care**. We were **sinners who joyfully pursued sin**, without a thought as to how sin offended our Creator. We were at war with God. The Bible says that:

Romans 5:8-10 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

The punishment that we were due as the enemies of God was poured out on Jesus Christ and judged.



He Who is the Son of God was punished in our place. He Who was never an enemy to God suffered for our offenses, so that the wrath of God against our sin has been paid.

People define themselves as "good" and "bad". God defines people as "enemies" or "friends". The friend of God - the Christian - is not at war with God. is **reconciled**. The Scripture says:

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (KJV) "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of

reconciliation; {19} To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

The word "**reconciled**" is the Greek (καταλλασσω pronounced *kat-al-las'-so*) katallasso, which means "**to return to favor**". Before the sacrifice of Jesus Christ you were not favored by God. You were His enemy. I have heard preachers wrongly say:

"God loves you just the way you are"

Though that statement is true of the Christian - those who have put their faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ - it is absolutely *not true* for the non-Christian. The Apostle writes:

Man exists in one of two absolute states with God.
What are they? _____

Colossians 1:20-22 ".... having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. {21} And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled {22} In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Active and flagrant sin in the unsaved person's life makes him at war with God. It saddens me when so

called local Churches teach that Jesus Christ will save a man *in his sins*. That is not scriptural. Jesus Christ forgives a man *from* his sins. He **reconciles us to God**.

2 We were enemies of God because, before faith, we refused to have a relationship with God. What does the Scripture say?

Ephesians 4:17-20 ... walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

Those with an active relationship with God *know this*. They love the Lord, and love to gather with other Saints to worship the Lord.

God
+
Man

Dear friends, this life is a warm up for eternity. In eternity we shall abide with other believers and with God in one solid unending day.

The atmosphere of earth is *nitrogen and oxygen*, a mixture we call "air". Without "air" there is no life on this planet. The atmosphere of Heaven is love and fellowship, the very "air" of Heaven. Those who are born again by faith in Christ are **reconciled** to God and to every believer, and "love and fellowship" is

what gives us life.

As A Christian I Am "Related"

Finally, the Christian is a person who is now related to God and to other Christians. This is why the Lord wants us to work *together*. We are told:

Romans 8:14-17 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. {15} For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. {16} The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: {17} And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

If the devil can't stop you from being saved, he will do his best to blind you to the truth of *relationship*. _____

I recently read an article by columnist **Alan Knox**, who wrote about two sisters in Christ who are going through terrible suffering. Both sisters have children with autism and need the help of their local Church - but none is forthcoming. Why? Knox writes:

" ... their church is in the beginning stages of a split. Almost everyone who is part of the church is drawing up sides and concentrating on the particular issue

that is splitting these children of God from one another. And what about people who are hurting and need help, like these sisters? They are left to hurt alone with no one to help them. Churches often deal with very unpleasant issues. But, if we are honest, most of these issues are matters of personal opinion and preference. We should never allow these kinds of issues to cause us to forsake those among us who are hurting and in need. Jesus said that people would know we are his followers by our love for one another, not because of the stand that we took on certain issues, even theologically based issues."

Interestingly enough, I have never seen Churches split because of theological issues. If they split along doctrinal lines I guess I could understand it. But they split over physical things that have nothing at all to do with Jesus.



Illustrate One Church I know split over whether to cut down a pine tree or not. A pine tree! Are you kidding me? Another Church split in two because the Pastor kept a bottle of oil on the pulpit, and would anoint the sick with it if they request it when he prayed over them. People have split over music styles, dress codes, carpets - the list goes on and on.

You know what God says?

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were

under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. {6} And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. {7} Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

We are family. Not because of the membership roll, nor even because we meet in the same building. We are family because we are all under the shared shed Blood of Christ.

The devil doesn't want you to focus on your Savior, your Father, nor even the indwelling Holy Spirit. Just as he did with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, he wants you to focus on some forbidden fruit. If he can get you to take a bite of it, he will disrupt the Church and its mission, while shaming the Lord Jesus Christ.

For Christians our citizenship is in Heaven, and those going to Heaven with us are *potentially* all around us. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation, the Word of the Gospel. Let's bring as many into the Family of God as we can, and run the devil away with His Old Rugged Cross!

Notes _____



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Things God Gives Every Believer When He Calls On The Name Of Jesus

1 In The Eternal Plan Of God

There are five terms that represent the sovereign purpose of God:

Foreknown (Rom. 8:29)

Predestination (Eph. 1:5)

Elect of God (1Thess. 1:4; 1Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:33; Col. 3:12; Titus 1:1)

Chosen (Eph. 1:4)

Called (Heb. 1:4; 1Thess. 5:24)

2 Redeemed (Rom. 3:24; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:12; 1Pet. 1:18)

3 Reconciled (Rom. 5:10; 2Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:22)

4 Related To God Through Propitiation (1Jo. 2:2; 4:10)

5 Forgiven All Trespasses (Col. 2:13; Eph. 1:7; 4:32;

6 Conjoined To Christ (Rom. 6; Col. 2:12; 3:2-3)

7 Free From The Law (Rom. 6:14; 7:2-6; 2Cor. 3:6-13; Gal. 5:18)

8 Children Of God:

Born again (Jo. 1:12-13; 3:6; 1Pet. 1:23)

Regenerated (Titus 3:5)

Quickened (Eph. 2:1; cf. Col. 2:13)

Sons of God (2Cor. 6:18; Gal. 3:26; 2Jo. 3:2)

A new creation (2Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:15)

9 Adopted (Eph. 1:4-5)

10 Acceptable To God By Jesus Christ: (Eph. 1:6; 1Pet. 2:5)

Made Righteous (2Cor. 5:21)

Sanctified Positionally (Jo. 17:19; Acts 20:32; 1Cor. 1:2)

Perfected Forever (Heb. 10:14)

Made Accepted In The Beloved (Eph. 1:6)

Made Meet, i.e., Qualified (Col. 1:12)

11 Justified (Rom. 3:24,26; 4:5; 5:1)

12 Made Nigh (Eph. 2:13)

13 Delivered From The Power Of Darkness (Col. 1:13)

14 Translated Into The Kingdom Of The Son (1Thess. 2:12)

15 On The Rock, Christ Jesus (1Cor. 3:9-15)

16 A Gift From God The Father To Christ (Jo. 17:2,6,9,11,12,24)

17 Circumcised In Christ (Eph. 2:11; Col. 2:11)

18 Partaker Of The Holy And Royal Priesthood (1Pet. 2:5,9)

19 A Chosen Generation, A Holy Nation, A Peculiar People (1Pet. 2:9)

20 Heavenly Citizens (Phil. 3:20; Heb. 12:22; 2Cor. 5:8)

21 Of The Family And Household Of God (Eph. 2:19; Gal. 6:10)

22 In The Fellowship Of The Saints (Eph. 2:19; Col. 1:4,12; 1Thess. 3:13)

23 A Heavenly Association:

Partners With Christ In Life (Col. 1:27; 1Jo. 5:11-12)

Partnership In Position (Col. 3:1; Eph. 2:6)

Partners With Christ In Service (1Cor. 15:57; Eph. 2:10)

Partners With Christ In Suffering (Phil. 1:29;

1Pet. 4:12-13)

Partners With Christ In Prayers (Jo. 14:12-14)

Partners With Christ In Betrothal (2Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27)

Partners In Expectation (Titus 2:13; Heb. 10:13)

24 Having Access To God:

Access Into His Grace (Rom. 5:2)

Access Unto The Father (Eph. 2:18)

Access Is Reassuring (Heb. 4:16; 10:19-20)

25 Within The Much More Care Of God: (Rom. 5:8-10)

Objects Of His Love (Jo. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1Jo. 3:16)

Objects Of His Grace:

Salvation (Eph. 3:2-9)

Safekeeping (Rom. 5:2)

Service (Jo. 17:18; Eph. 4:7)

Instruction (Titus 2:12-13)

Objects Of His Power (Eph. 1:19; Phil. 2:13)

Objects Of His Faithfulness (Heb. 13:5; Phil. 1:6; 1Thess. 5:24)

Objects Of His Peace (Jo. 14:27; Col. 3:15)

Objects Of His Consolation (2Thess. 2:16-17)

Objects Of His Intercession (Rom. 8:26,34;

Heb. 7:25; 9:24)

26 His Inheritance (Eph. 1:18; Rom. 8:30; Col. 3:4)

27 The Inheritance Of The Saints (1Pet. 1:4; Eph. 1:14; Col. 3:24)

28 Light In the Lord (Eph. 5:8; 1Jo. 1:7)

29 Vitally United To The Father, The Son, And The Holy Spirit:

Believer Is In God The Father (1Thess. 1:1)
God The Father Is In The Believer (Eph. 4:6)
Believer Is In The Son (Rom. 8:1)
Son Is In The Believer (Jo. 14:20)
Believer Is In The Spirit (Rom. 8:9)
Spirit Is In The Believer (1Cor. 2:12)

Believer Is A Member In Christ's Body (1Cor. 12:13)
Believer Is To Christ As Branch Is To a Vine (Jo. 15:5)
Believer Is A Stone, Christ The Cornerstone (Eph. 2:19-22)
Believer a Sheep In Christ's Flock (Jo. 10:27-29)
Believer Part Of The Bride Of Christ (Eph. 5:25-27)
Believer Is A Priest; Christ Is The High Priest (1Pet. 2:5-9)
Believer A New Creation In Christ The Last

Adam (2Cor. 5:17)

30 Blessed With The Earnest Or First-Fruits Of The Spirit: (2Cor. 1:22)

Born Of The Spirit (Jo. 3:16)
Baptized By The Spirit (1Cor. 12:13)
Indwelt by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9; 1Jo. 2:27; 3:24; Ja. 4:5)
Sealed By The Spirit (2Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:30)
Filled By The Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

31 Glorified (Rom. 8:18; 8:30; Col. 3:4)

32 Complete In Him (Col. 2:9-10)

33 Possessing Every Spiritual Blessing (Eph. 1:3)