

Reference: VARIOUS  
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## Redemption and the Environment

Purpose: To review the elements of the doctrine of redemption that are relevant to developing a Biblical position on the environment.

### 1. Introduction

Last week, the fall and its effects on man and creation:

We saw:

- Both man and creation are affected by the fall
- Creation itself is in bondage to corruption; Problems would not end even if we could take man away
- God is still revealed in creation but the picture is defaced
- Man is still made in God's image but again the image is horribly disfigured.
- Man is still steward of creation but his dominion is altered to be harder and less complete than before – there will be rebellion
- Fallen man does not and cannot exercise this stewardship for the glory of God but for selfish purposes which give rise to outcomes that can affect the environment

This week, redemption and the effects this has had

Then we will look at the eternal state.

Where can we look to see how redemption has changed things?

### 2. The Curse of God removed

We know that ultimately there will be no more curse:

**Revelation 22:3** There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

From what does God's curse need to be removed?

#### 2.1. The man and woman

**Galatians 3:10** For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM." **11** 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.

### 2.2. The ground- all created things

Exactly who/what was redeemed by Christ on the cross?

"All things" – in heaven and on earth

**Acts 3:21** **Acts 3:18** "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. **19** "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; **20** and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, **21** whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. **19** For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

**Ephesians 1:10** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.* In Him

**Hebrews 9:23** Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

**Job 25:5** "If even the moon has no brightness And the stars are not pure in His sight,

**Job 15:15** "Behold, He puts no trust in His holy ones, And the heavens are not pure in His sight;

Caution – we are not saying that all are saved, but all who are made pure are made pure in Christ

### 3. The extent of the redemption

Do we see the curse lifted from all things now?

No – the full redemption comes at the Last Day

#### 3.1. The curse lifted from man

Believers have the redemption of their spirits now

The redemption of their bodies comes at the Last Day:

**1 Corinthians 15:42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

**1 Corinthians 15:50** Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. **54** But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

**Philippians 3:21** who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

As believers, we groan for this Day

**Romans 8:23** And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. **24** For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

### 3.2. *The curse lifted from "all things"*

Do we see all things redeemed and restored now?

No – awaits the Last Day

**Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**

What is creation groaning and waiting eagerly for?

The Last Day – its liberation from bondage to corruption

So we and creation are both in an interim, not final situation

## 4. The effects on Creation

### 4.1. *The nature of God's creation*

Unchanged for the present, redeemed for the future

Still in bondage to corruption

## 4.2. *Man in God's creation*

### 4.2.1. What is redeemed man like?

Made was made in God's image; marred by the fall

Now partially restored

We have redeemed spirits, renewed fellowship with God

We have the Holy Spirit indwelling us

But we still wrestle with the flesh – the old man

### 4.2.2. What position does man have?

Unchanged

### 4.2.3. What is he commanded to do?

Unchanged

### 4.2.4. What is the redeemed man's attitude in God's creation

How do the redeemed react to responsibilities from God?

Has the potential with God's help to do right

To honor God in the keeping of His commands

To have the right motive and attitude

To be a good steward of all God has given

Not all the time because of indwelling sin

But not self seeking like the worldling

## 5. Conclusions

What principles do we draw from this?

- Christ purified all things by His blood – in heaven and on earth – universal consequences
- The full realization of this will be on the Last Day
- We have redeemed spirits, groan for redeemed bodies
- Creation groans for Last Day, when it will be liberated
- Our mandate, unchanged; earth still a slave to corruption
- Redeemed man has the capacity to be a good steward of all God has given