

The Ransom

Lutros – the idea is that one is indebted. That is just what happens to an Israelite when he becomes a slave. He is paid an amount of money for seven years of servitude. He may pay off a debt but now he owes the service to the one who purchased his labor for the next seven years.

We are indebted, not to Satan but to God. Satan gives us nothing, nor do we owe him anything. Our debt to God is incurred because we sin – transgress His law, choose things contrary to His perfect nature. Satan is merely our taskmaster in our fallen condition.

Though born with a sin nature, we do not become earn the wages of sin until we come to the age where we deliberately chose sin over God. (age of accountability) In other words, we are prone to sin, but the debt is not incurred until we choose for ourselves. The soul that sins must die. The wages of sin is death.

Once we have made those choices we are indebted to God who gave us life and all things. We have also committed a crime against His nature. We have a debt and a penalty that is owed to God. God sees sin as such a horrific thing (we need to get that perspective) that the only reasonable punishment for it is death. Only one deliberate sin's just punishment is death. Sounds too severe because we don't see as God sees. One sin rarely stands alone. Because it comes from a wicked heart it is propped up by many other sins, and they compound through time reaping a harvest of evil.

How can the *lutros* be met? The Judge decided the just penalty – death. We commit the crime everyday. The Judge allowed for another to take my place. The problem is it had to be someone with no sin of their own that owed the debt. The solution was God incarnate. He made the payment we could not and the debt is paid in full, as Jesus shouted from the cross. The penalty of death was met.

Every human has a debt he cannot pay and a just sentence of death. There is only one way to make that payment – the substitution of One paying the debt and taking the justice meted out in your place. Salvation is receiving that priceless gift.

How should this change our attitude toward sin?
Toward our relationship with Jesus? With God?
Affect our daily life?

6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;
7 None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: 8 (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) 9 That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption.
Psalms 49:6-9 (KJV)

Other Scriptures on the ransom:

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matt 20:28 (NIV)

38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (NIV)

22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)

28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are,

29 so that no one may boast before him.

30 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.

1 Cor 1:28-30 (NIV)

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Eph 1:7 (NIV)

5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

1 Tim 2:5-6 (NIV)

12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Heb 9:12 (NIV)

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Heb 9:15 (NIV)

Greek Strong's Number: 629

Transliteration: apolutrosis

Phonetic Pronunciation: ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis

Root: from a compound of [<G575>](#) and [<G3083>](#)

Cross Reference: TDNT - 4:351,Omitted

Part of Speech: n f

Usage Notes:

English Words used in KJV:

redemption 9

deliverance 1

[Total Count: 10]

1) a releasing effected by payment of ransom

1a) redemption, deliverance

1b) liberation procured by the payment of a ransom

—Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

