

Pastor Ray's Bible School #6

“The Progressive Nature of Redemption”

But we trust in...God...
Who *delivered* us from so great a death, and *doth deliver*:
in Whom we trust that He *will yet deliver* us;
2 Corinthians 1: 9-10 KJV

I. Reviewing the Prophetic View of Scripture

A. Thinking through the Big Picture of Scripture

1. We're learning to “see” the Bible from the prophetic or “higher” view, to interpret text from context.
2. We learn the parts best from understanding the whole.
 - a. Knowing a city versus knowing one route
 - b. Assembling something without a diagram
 - c. Building a house without a blueprint
3. So far, we have learned:
 - a. God deals with mankind through *covenants*.
 - b. God's pattern is *first the natural, then the spiritual*.
 - c. God's will is that we glorify Him in this world by *pressing through tribulation*.
4. Now we will learn another great principle, that there is a “now” but “not yet” dimension to the scriptures regarding our redemption, the manifestation of Christ's reign and of the kingdom of God.

B. Progressive Redemption

1. We are, in one sense, as saved as we shall ever be. Our placement “in Christ” secures us and guarantees eternity.
2. On the other hand, there is a *progressive* process dimension of our salvation described in our text.
 - a. God has saved us. (“delivered”)

- b. God is now saving us. (“doth deliver”)
 - c. God will yet save us. (“will yet deliver”)
- 3. Two great stumbling blocks hinder our maturity in Christ.
 - a. Relegating salvation to the past-something that’s happened to me.
 - b. Relegating salvation to the future-something that will happen to me some day.
 - c. Both of these errors limit us and cause us to miss the present “nowness” of our salvation and the *present* truth of God’s work in our lives.
- 4. Paul’s three-fold expression of redemption has prophetic implications.

II. Understanding the Trinitarian Stamp of God

A. The Trinity in Creation

- 1. The plural form of God’s name, Elohim, always translated in the singular from Hebrew, was really a clue as to the triune nature of God!
- 2. God created all things “ex nihilo”, a Latin phrase which means “out of nothing”.
- 3. God literally “spoke” things into existence, and all things that exist bear the stamp of His nature, which is TRIUNE.

THE STAMP OF TRINITY IN CREATION

God’s nature:	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Our earthly home:	Heavens	Earth	Seas
Three dimensions of time:	Past	Present	Future
Three primary colors:	Red	Blue	Green
Man’s nature:	Spirit	Soul	Body
3 dimensions of temptation: (I John 2:15-16)	Pleasure	Possession	Pride
3 Archangels:	Gabriel	Michael	Lucifer

B. THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT-The New Testament fully reveals what was hinted at in the Old Testament.

THE STAMP OF THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

3 Dimensions of Maturity:	Little Children	Young Men	Fathers
3 Levels of Faith's Fruit:	30-Fold	60-Fold	100-Fold
Jesus' Proper Name:	Jesus	Christ	Lord
Jesus is:	the Way	the Truth	the Life
Jesus' 3 Ministry Offices:	Prophet	Priest	King
3 Things that Abide:	Faith	Hope	Love
3 Levels of Prayer:	Asking	Seeking	Knocking
3 Levels of Approaching God:	Thanksgiving	Praise	Worship
The kingdom Hidden in 3 Loaves			
Answered Prayer: Comes in 3 Loaves			

Three Sets of Three Spiritual Gifts

<u>Knowing Gifts</u>	<u>Speaking Gifts</u>	<u>Power Gifts</u>
Word of Wisdom	Tongues	Miracles
Word of Knowledge	Interpretation of Tongues	Faith
Discernment of Spirits	Prophecy	Gifts of Healing

Three Sets of Three Spiritual Fruits

<u>Fruit for You</u>	<u>Fruit for Others</u>	<u>Fruit for God</u>
Love	Longsuffering	Meekness
Joy	Gentleness	Temperance
Peace	Goodness	Faith
3 levels of Fruitfulness	Fruit	More Fruit
		Fruit that remains

Paul Speaks of “3 Heavens”

Peter’s Vision Regarding the Gentiles Confirmed 3 Times

Proverbs: A 3-fold cord is not easily broken

The Law of Justice: In the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses...be established

C. Miscellaneous Three’s

The New Jerusalem features 3 gates
on each side of the City (Revelation 21:13)

Peter suggested 3 tabernacles to
be built (Matthew 17:4)

The 3 wise men brought 3 gifts to the Christ
Child (Mt. 2:1-11)

“Destroy My body...in three days
I’ll raise it up” (John 2:19)

Jesus’ parents searched for Him 3 days
(Luke 2:46)

Jesus told Peter he would deny
Him three times (Matthew 26:34)

Jesus’ public ministry lasted 3 years

Peter denied Jesus three times
(Matthew 26:75)

Jesus’ “inner circle” consisted of 3 men
(Mark 14:33)

Jesus prayed 3 times while His
disciples slept (Matthew 26:36-45)

Jesus was crucified in the 3rd hour
(Mark 15:25)

Three women at the foot of the cross
(John 19:25)

In the midst of 3 crosses
(Matthew 27:38)

In the grave 3 days (Matthew 12:40)

With accusations written in 3 languages
(John 19:20)

Rose on the third day (Matthew 28:1-7)

Suffering from wounds in 3 body parts

The gospel is comprised of Jesus’
Death, burial and resurrection
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Jesus asked Peter 3 times if he loved Him
(John 21:15-17)

Left us with three that “bear witness”
in heaven: the Father, the Word and
the Holy Ghost, and these 3 are *One*!
(1 John 5:7 KJV)

D. The Stamp of the Trinity in Our Redemption

1. The pattern of deliverance in Exodus: out of Egypt, through the wilderness, into the land (Deuteronomy 6:23)
2. The three major feasts of the Lord: Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles
3. The 3 primary players in the Exodus conflict: God, Moses, Pharaoh
4. Three dimensions of the Tabernacle of Moses: Outer Court, Holy Place, Holy of Holies
5. God's identity: the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
6. Three levels of approach to God prescribed: Outer Court-all the people, Holy Place-the priests, Holy of Holies-the high priest only
7. Three spiritual locations: Egypt, Wilderness, Promised Land (each with a corresponding initial feast)
8. Three-fold salvation Jesus provides: Spirit, Soul and Body
 - a. Spirit
 - 1) I *have been* saved
 - 2) Justification
 - 3) Once for all
 - 4) Saved from the *penalty* of sin
 - b. Soul
 - 1) Sanctification
 - 2) I *am being* saved
 - 3) Progressive
 - 4) Saved from the *power* of sin
 - c. Body
 - 1) Glorification
 - 2) I *will yet be* saved
 - 3) Final
 - 4) Saved from the *presence* of sin

III. Conclusion: Primary Applications of the Prophetic View

- A. God is at once “One” and “Many”, one God in three persons; a mystery which helps us understand our salvation as “once for all” and yet “progressive”.
 - 1. The Father foreordained our redemption.
 - 2. The Son accomplished our redemption.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit applies our redemption.
- B. The plan of God brings a full redemption for man’s spirit, soul and body.
- C. The OT Feasts (first the natural) foreshadow three dimensions of maturity and growth for all the saints (then the spiritual).
 - 1. Passover- in Egypt, marks us with the blood of Christ for all eternity
 - 2. Pentecost- in the wilderness, writes the law of God on our hearts, prepares us to inherit the Land.
 - 3. Tabernacles- in our “Promised Land” as we enter and possess the “placement” God has destined for us.
 - a. The primary priority with God is *placement*
 - b. Our primary responsibility is *possession*
 - c. The “land” is our *promise*, but keeping it is our problem
 - d. The “land” is a focus of biblical faith in the Old Testament, and speaks to us today of finding and fulfilling our calling, keeping all the feasts and displacing all God’s enemies!
- D. Avoid these mistakes:
 - 1. Don’t stop short.
 - 2. Don’t put it all in the past or all in the future; there is a “NOW” aspect of what God is doing in our lives.
 - 3. Don’t confuse “things that differ”; Passover is not Pentecost; Pentecost is not Tabernacles; Justification and Sanctification are related, yet unique; Justification is once and for all, while Sanctification is Progressive.
- E. Learn to look for God’s trinitarian stamp on creation and redemption...See the Bible from a “prophetic view”!!