

# **RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN**

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**Explain Words 2**

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Redeemer, Redemption, Salvation, all these words are connected together. The complexity of God and the thoroughness of God at work, simple and straightforward. We left off where the word “redemption” describes the act of buying something back.

It is easy to lose sight of what redemption really is. The most common assumption of the world regarding the meaning of “redemption” usually involves someone who was going really crooked but straightened up his life and “redeemed himself.” Sometimes, “redemption” is also equated with “salvation,” particularly in the church. Yeah, the guy was the janitor who was always drunk and now he is the president of the company. Or, he was using and selling drugs and went to jail. But, he got his high school diploma while in jail, continued studies into medical school, and now he is a doctor doing good things and making good money. Or, he was a drug-user, wife-beater, and a thief until he had a brush with the law. He realized he was going nowhere with that life and decided to give up his bad ways. Now, he is a family man, involved in the community, mentoring boys and girls in his neighbourhood. Did these people redeem themselves, save themselves? In the eyes of the world, probably yes. But it is a very superficial kind of redemption, and properly so, as the world is very superficial. A person doesn't need Jesus for that kind of redemption. In the same measure that the church is becoming more like the world, “salvation” is also very superficial.

All this talk about words would be meaningless were it not for death. The importance of these words is determined by death. We are all on a conveyor that drops its load at the end. We will be dropped head first into a tube falling into the unknown. There is no way to avoid it. And on the other side, there will be something, or there will be nothing. It could be a candle light snuffed out forever, go to sleep like a rock. From this side, and without of the God of the Bible, the only God that exists, we cannot see what is on the other side. We can only guess. Without of the God of the Bible, is there anything we can guess or understand of what it could be like on the other side? Well, yes, there are things we can guess at with a certain amount of certainty. It can be good or it can be bad. It can be

rejoicing or it can be lamenting.

Everything goes to the credibility of the God of the Bible. If the Bible is true, if he is whom he says he is in the Bible, if he is the one who gave the Law to Moses, if he is the all-powerful being who is from everlasting to everlasting, if he is the one who possesses the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, then, we have it made, our redemption and salvation are guaranteed. As far as we are concerned, the redemption that matters is the one that buys us from death and hell. And there is no saviour other than Jesus, there is no hope other than him. Our Jesus is the redeemer, with his life he bought us back; he saved us from death and hell. Our salvation is from God the Father through Jesus, his death and spilt blood. How he suffered for the likes of us.

He paid a great price for us; let the redeemed of the Lord say so.