

NO LONGER A SLAVE!

Revelation 5:9

9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Psalm 111:9

9 He has sent redemption to His people; (...)

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

Unless we understand what, the word redemption means, we may not fully grasp the meaning of these verses.

When this was originally written in the Bible, it was mainly used in reference to the purchase of a slave’s freedom. The word redemption or to redeem means ‘to buy out’, or to ‘buy back’.

Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1 and He said about Himself:

61 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

Jesus also said in Matthew 20:28 “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Romans 6:20 says:

‘For when you were slaves of sin, (...)’

Colossians 1:14 we read:

‘in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.’

If we were “redeemed,” or ‘bought out’, then our prior condition was one of slavery. Jesus died on the Cross to ‘buy us back’ from spiritual captivity.

If we keep this in mind, every time we come across the word redemption, we will have a deeper understanding of what Jesus did for us on the Cross.

We were not only slaves to sin. We were also under the spiritual captivity of Satan.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Hebrews 2:14-15

(...) that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

1 John 5:19

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway (control) of the wicked one.

In a spiritual sense we can say that there are millions of people who unknowingly are under the influence or control of an unseen master, either sin or the Devil.

Jesus is the Only One who can set captives free, because He is the Redeemer.

There are huge benefits included in our redemption. We have forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, eternal life, deliverance, healing, we become children of God, we have peace with God, and many other benefits.

If I am no longer a slave, and I have been permanently liberated from spiritual slavery, why would I consider putting myself under any kind of bondage again?

The Word of God tells us that there are activities, practices, and even cultural traditions, that we should not get involved with, specially, those that involve spiritual/supernatural elements.

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Example: Next Sunday, the 31st of October, people all over the world, specially, in the western world will be celebrating Halloween. Halloween is becoming a growing trend in Australia.

This sounds like such an innocent and fun activity!

These are spiritual celebrations deeply rooted in the occult, that belong to the realm of darkness, and we should not get involved in or encourage our children to participate in it.

Jesus described the Devil as a thief and a murderer, whose only intentions are to kill, still and destroy.

Churches in the first century had to address these issues on a regular basis. People were converting to Jesus but were still flirting with pagan celebrations.

When Jesus spoke to the Churches in Revelation, He expressed great concern and displeasure to some, because believers were flirting with the world.

For example, when Jesus spoke to the Church in Ephesus, He commended them for not compromising their faith.

Revelation 2:6

6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Who were the Nicolaitans?

In Ephesus, there was a group of people called Nicolaitans who were telling believers, 'Hey we do not need to be so strict. What does it hurt if we celebrate a few of the pagan celebrations with the community?'

Believers were mingling with paganism. Jesus called them to separate themselves from those activities. We are also called to do the same.

Many people and Christians included don't understand how the spiritual world operates.

Hosea 4:6

We should not expose ourselves to any environment where darkness is being celebrated.

Occultic activities are door openers to the spirit realm. They are not funny, they are dangerous. Halloween is not a new festival, it dates thousands of years to a specific pagan festival and the pagans believed that on October 31st, the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead was very thin, they believed that it was so thin that the dead could pass from the realm of the dead, into the realm of the living and could walk where they once had walked before they died.

In fact, Halloween a celebration of necromancy.

What is necromancy? Necromancy is having fellowship with the dead or entertaining the dead. When people do that, they are entertaining familiar spirits.

This is how Halloween began. Early Christian leaders described these celebrations as being dark, evil, and sinister.

The entire event is designed to open a door to the dark spiritual realm and there is nothing innocent about it. Halloween from its very inception was evil and is still evil.

I would like to bring to your attention other spiritual activities that are equally dangerous.

All occultic activities are designed to give you information and knowledge that normally you would get from God, or you would get from the Bible. For those who do not want to get information from God, or the Bible, or they don't know any better, they search for answers in other ways.

The occult manifests in many different forms like: Astrology, new age channelling, healing by angels or crystals, mediums, reading palms, tarot cards, looking into crystals, fortune telling, superstitions, Horoscopes, and many other ways.

Most people believe that these are legit and trustworthy ways of getting all the answers they need. The sad reality is that they will be deceived. Whatever information people receive via the occult it always leads to deception and bondage, because it does not come from God.

There is a reason why these spiritual activities are forbidden in the Bible.

Isaiah 8:19

19 And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?

Leviticus 19:31

31 "Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.

There is another area where the realm of darkness is gaining tremendous influence and is moving in a very stealthily way to get to people's hearts and minds. This affects all of us, **Entertainment!**

People expose themselves to the dangers of the occult, while watching shows that not only depict but also teach dark and evil practices. They are fictional shows but the inspiration behind it is not fake.

When people watch shows or play video games that teach them how to cast spells, or witchcraft, and other occultic practices, do you think that it does not affect them, even though it's only a show? Think twice. We need to be careful to what we expose ourselves to.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

We have been bought 'out of spiritual slavery' with a very high price, Jesus's own blood. Jesus is our Lord and Redeemer! **John 8:36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

