

Lesson 1:
*Rescued, Forgiven, Redeemed, and
Reconciled*



*“If I had the wisdom of Solomon,
the patience of John,
the meekness of Moses,
the strength of Samson,
the obedience of Abraham,
the compassion of Joseph,
the tears of Jeremiah,
the poetic skill of David,
the prophetic voice of Elijah,
the courage of Daniel,
the greatness of John the Baptist,
the endurance and love of Paul,
I would still need redemption through Christ’s blood,
the forgiveness of sin.”
R. L. Wheeler*

Our story begins anew with salvation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” So it is only fitting that we begin our journey into who God says we are by starting with the moment Jesus rescued us from our sins, forgave and redeemed us by his blood. The most important thing we can do in our lives is turn to Jesus Christ. Without Him, we are lost. Nothing in this world could ever fill us the way God can. Nothing in this world will ever give us the peace that God will when we trust Him. We are all in a need of a savior and, though we may fool ourselves temporarily, we all desperately need the redemption found only in the blood of Jesus Christ.

Everyone needs Forgiveness ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Let's start out by reading Romans 6:23.

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you read this verse?

Whether you agree with it or not, most countries have some sort of a death penalty associated with certain crimes. What are some crimes that are generally deemed deserving of the death penalty?

Scripture tells us that all sin earns (the wages of) death. So what is sin? For a simple answer, please read James 4:17 and then put it into your own words.

Rescued ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

“Sometimes we wear the labels that other people have placed on us for years before we allow God to take them off. Labels like: “Abandoned”, “Discarded”, and “Neglected” are often placed on us when we are small children. As we grow up, we become better at hiding them, but we know they are still there. Underneath all the layers of confidence we still feel the chaffing of those original labels.” (From the video)

What labels were placed on you during your childhood that you struggled with as an adult?

Colossians 1:13-14 says, "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

How would you describe the "dominion of darkness"? (If you are unsure, look up Galatians 5:19-21)

What are the characteristics of "the kingdom of the Son he loves"? (Galatians 5:22-26 might help.)

What has God rescued you from?

Forgiven ~ ~ ~ ~

Nothing in our past or our future can keep us from the love of God. Please read Romans 8:37-39 and list all the things that Paul is convinced cannot keep us from God's love.

If there is anything ... any sin or hurt that you haven't laid at the feet of the cross (AND LEFT THERE), take a few moments to confess your need for God to wash the guilt or pain away so you

can begin anew. If you have already done this, write out a prayer of thanksgiving for the mercy of God's forgiveness.

Redeemed - - - - -

Our lives have been purchased at a very high price. Our debt to sin has been paid. Our jail cell has been unlocked and the door thrown open. To live as though this were not true would be to live as though Christ's blood had no power. Our chains are broken. To continue to wear them as a badge of shame insults the love poured out for us. Read Titus 2:11-14 and, in your own words, write how this verse describes who we are as redeemed children of God.

Why do you think it is so hard for some of us to 'walk out of the jail cell'? (In other words, what do you think holds us back from living in the redemption and freedom Christ offers?)

How can you personally help a friend who is struggling in this area? (If you are the one struggling with this, how would you like a friend to help you? - - consider asking a close friend to help you in this way.)

