

# Redemption

by Watchman Nee

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*Redemption is a fact accomplished by Jesus Christ, but it requires faith to apply it to our lives and experience salvation.*

**Scripture:** John 1:29, John 3:15-16, John 3:18, John 5:24, Acts 16:31, Romans 3:22, 1 Timothy 2:6, 1 Timothy 4:10, 1 John 2:2

**Topics:** "Redemption", "Faith and Salvation"

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## Description

Watchman Nee emphasizes the profound doctrine of redemption, asserting that Jesus Christ's sacrifice is intended for the entire world, as evidenced by various scriptures. He clarifies that while Christ's death is sufficient for all, individual belief is essential for salvation, as faith is the means by which one appropriates this redemption. Nee warns against the misconception that universal redemption negates personal responsibility to believe, highlighting that true salvation requires an active faith in Jesus. He concludes that belief in Christ leads to eternal life and justification, making it imperative for individuals to apply the truth of redemption to their own lives.

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## Transcript

Redemption is a very great doctrine. It is something that we should understand. The redemption of our Lord Jesus is for the whole world. We have the following verses to prove this point:

The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29).

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16).

He Himself is the propitiation...for those of the whole world (1 John 2:2).

Who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Tim. 2:6).

The Savior of all men (1 Tim. 4:10).

After reading these verses, we can see that the redemption of Jesus is for the whole world. Hence, it is possible for everyone in the world to be saved. The Lord's redemption is an accomplished fact.

However, the Bible tells us that not everyone in the world is saved. If a man does not understand the teaching concerning "faith," he may think that whether or not a man believes in the Lord's vicarious death,

he is saved anyway. It seems to him that since Jesus has died for the whole world, the whole world need not die anymore, and there is no need to be concerned if one believes or not. This may seem very reasonable, but actually it is very unreasonable, for this would absolve sinners of all their responsibilities. If this were the case, there would no longer be the need for believers to preach the gospel.

Although the Bible says that Christ has died for the world, it also says that those who believe will be saved. The following Scriptures testify to this:

That every one who believes... (John 3:15).

He who believes into Him...; he who does not believe... (John 3:18).

Believe on the Lord Jesus (Acts 16:31).

Through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe (Rom. 3:22).

Him who is of the faith of Jesus (Rom. 3:26).

Your sins have been forgiven you because of His name (1 John 2:12).

We can quote many more Scriptures, but the above verses are sufficient to prove that a man has to believe. This means that although Christ has died for the world, the world must still apply His death and reckon it their own death. Otherwise, the death of Christ will have nothing to do with them. Although the Scripture says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son," the Bible does not stop here. Following this it says, "That every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life." First Timothy 4:10 says, "The living God, who is the Savior of all men." God sent His Son into the world to die for men. Hence, He is able to be the Savior of all men. He is the "Savior...", especially of those who believe." These are the ones who have believed.

After believing, there must be the experience. If one believes in God's fact, there surely must be the experience of the fact. Please consider the following Scriptures:

He who believes into Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe has been condemned already (John 3:18).

He who...believes...has eternal life (John 5:24).

Every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life (John 3:16).

Justified out of faith (Rom. 5:1).

Hence, when man believes that the salvation God has prepared for him is a fact, and when he applies this salvation, he is saved.

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