



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Scripture: Titus 2:11-15 / John 8:36

TITLE: Jesus is the Redeemer

What's the most meaningful thing you've purchased? Was it your first house? Was it your dream car? Was it a trip to Disney?

I remember when I was 13 years old, I did de-tasseling. De-tasseling is a summer job where you go around a cornfield pulling the tassels off of the top of the corn plant. It's hard work. But I did this job for a couple of weeks. When I received my paycheck, I knew what I would buy. I bought my mother a picture of Jesus wearing a robe with the flags of the world. She loved this picture, and I spent all my money on it. (<https://images.app.goo.gl/DMmyBC1YBKTzp8tM7>) That gift was a costly gift that brought my mother great joy.

We, too, have received a costly gift. And it came at a very high price. What is that gift? It's the gift of redemption. What do I mean? Listen to the words of Paul in Titus 2.

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, ¹³ while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. ¹⁴ He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

¹⁵ You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say. Titus 2:11-15 (NLT)

Paul says Jesus gave us his life to free us from every kind of sin. What we miss in this translation is that Paul uses a word that means ransomed or redeemed. Jesus voluntarily died on the cross to redeem us – to pay off our sin debt - to ransom us from the slavery and the penalty of sin. Why? To cleanse us; to make us morally pure and free from guilt. And when He did this, he provided for us to become part of God's family.

What are the practical implications of this? Paul says we should turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. If I were to write this letter today, I'd say, "Stop sinning. You don't have to live like a slave of sin. You are free."

And as Jesus said, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36 (ESV)

So here's my challenge for you today. Take a few minutes and ask yourself, how have you returned to your old sinful habits? Chances are, it wasn't intentional, but you let down your guard, and now you feel trapped.

Jesus is our Redeemer. He saves your soul and redeems your life. So turn those sins back over to Christ and ask Him for help to do those good deeds. And then encourage another believer to do the same thing. We can live alone, but we can't thrive alone. So let's encourage each other to go win the day.