

WORD FOR THE DAY: Redemption

April 12

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

The first time I remember seeing or hearing the word “*redemption*” was when I was a young boy, and it was not in church. It was on the back of a book of S & H Green Stamps. You might be asking, what in the world is that. Well, only those over fifty have probably ever heard of S & H Green Stamps. They were issued from the 1930s to 1980s by the Sperry & Hutchinson Company. They reached their zenith during the 1960s. In its heyday their merchandise catalog was the largest catalog of any that was printed.

Here’s how it worked. Stamps were given as a customer incentive program at supermarkets, department stores, and gas stations in denominations of 1, 10, and 50. Think of them as an early form of airlines miles or cash back. The stamps were licked and stuck in pre-printed books. Then you would visit the local redemption center and exchange filled-in books of stamps for an array of appliances, lamps, clocks, and even things I wanted like a “slip n’ slide.” To put it simply: you used the stamps as redemption money—to pay the price to purchase something.

In an infinitely deeper and greater way, Jesus Christ purchased us (redeemed us) us and set us free from the penalty of our sins. Ephesians 1:7 says that in Jesus we have redemption through His blood. The word translated “redemption” is the Greek word *apolutrosis* which means “to ransom away.” It’s an intensive word that was used of deliverance from a state of slavery. The cross was the divine redemption center where Jesus bought us with His precious blood and made us His own.

REFLECTION

- We only purchase what we highly value. Consider the price Jesus paid to purchase you and what that reveals about how much he loves and values you.
- God did not have to purchase you. Ponder the grace and mercy of God in sovereignly choosing to purchase you from the slave market of sin.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Father, thank you for sending Jesus to purchase me from a life of enslavement to sin and an eternity separated from You. Strengthen and energize me every day to live out my redemption by living a life free from the dominion of sin. Amen.