



REDEEMER

Devotion

[**Please provide:** one person to read Titus 2:11-14 and one leader; copies of the devotion for attendees.]

Reader: From Titus 2:11-14, we read, *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good* (NIV).

Leader: ... *we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness* (Titus 2:13-14a NIV).

In our everyday lives we frequently assume the role of “redeemer,” whether it is exchanging a coupon for a cookie at a local bakery or eating a healthy salad to make up for eating that cookie.

The practice of being a “redeemer” was also common in Old Testament culture. A man with the responsibility of kinsman redeemer could literally be a life-saver. “To *redeem* is to ‘buy back’, and this is what the human kinsman-redeemer does – he buys back his relative from slavery, or he buys back his relative’s portion of the Promised Land so that it may continue in the family” (Ahlman, Elizabeth, *Ruth: More Than A Love Story*. Concordia Publishing House, 2014, 94).

The Israelites associated the act of redemption as a quality of Yahweh, the Lord God. Even in the face of death, Job boldly proclaimed, “***I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end ... I will see God***” (Job 19:25-26 NIV). God’s Word tells us that because of our sins we deserve nothing but death (Romans 6:23). But because of His great love for us, our Lord bought back His people – culminating with the cross, at the cost of His Son Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer.

When I think of redemption, I hear God’s reassuring words through Isaiah 43:

Alli, do not be afraid. I have bought you back from the slavery of sin by the precious blood of My Son. From before time began I chose you; you are Mine. When you encounter trouble, I will be with you. Be still and know that I am God.

Take a moment to read this portion again, inserting **your name**.

Nearly 1500 years after the Israelites were brought back from slavery in Egypt, Jesus **the Redeemer** was crucified in our place and triumphs over death. As we wait for His return we, too, can confidently proclaim: “I know that my Redeemer lives! And because He lives, I will also.”

Prayer: Gracious God, thank You for redeeming me from sin at the price of Your Son’s life. Through Holy Baptism You have made me Your own, despite my sinful condition. In joyful response to Your gift of salvation, I am eager to do good works to bring glory to You. In the name of Jesus, my Redeemer, I pray. Amen.

Redeemer

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