

Serve God Without Fear

Luke 1:67-80

Of the two songs in Luke 1, Mary's song is most well-known, though Zacharias' song is extraordinary:

(1). The song comes nine months after Zacharias' mouth was shut because of unbelief (Luke 1:20).

Never put any person beyond the reach of God's grace. *"Blessed by the Lord God of Israel..."* (v. 68).

(2). The theme of the song is God's redemption of His people through Jesus (Luke 1:68-74).

"For He has visited and accomplished redemption for His people" (v. 68). It would be difficult to say that Zacharias understood the word redemption in terms of the cross and the atonement of Christ. He did know it as *"Salvation from our enemies"* (71, 74). The Messiah was a deliverer for Israel!

(3). The end of the song is a prophecy about John the Baptist, Zacharias' son (Luke 1:76-80)

John the Baptist "prepared the way" for Christ to "shine on those who sit in darkness" (v. 79)

Every miracle in the Bible, every prophecy from the Bible, and every word of the Bible is designed to show us Jesus. Jesus came to earth for one reason - *"To accomplish redemption for His people."* (v. 68).

I. Redemption is defined as deliverance from our enemies.

You have three enemies in this life: "The world, the flesh and the devil." Though this exact phrase is not found in the Bible, I John 2:16 ("lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life") comes close. This phrase is definitely found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (Anglican). The reader prays --

Spare us, good Lord, from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

(A). Your first enemy is a loser - the world.

The world is a "a philosophy of living or a system of life that leaves God out." The world is in essence a "view of life that is anti-God." Folks, you live like that, you are on the losing team.

"Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Philippians 2:10).

When you come to the place in life where God is central (not first, central), you are redeemed.

(B). Your second enemy is a schmoozer - the flesh.

The flesh is not your skin. The flesh is the Bible way of speaking of "self" - self is a schmoozer.

"I deserve this." I don't deserve that!" The "Me Generation" is not something to be proud of.

Selfishness is an enemy. Why? The person turned within is the person who sits "in darkness."

When Jesus says a follower of His must *"deny himself"* that means you turn your eyes outward.

When you come to the place in your life where others are first (not you), you are redeemed.

(C). Your third enemy is an accuser - the devil

There is an interesting verse in Revelation 12:10: "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren** has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night." Growing in grace is understanding better your redemption!

II. Redemption is defined as service to our God *without fear*.

Jesus is called in this text "the horn of salvation" (vs. 69). A horn represents "strength and power."

"I will cause the horn of David to spring forth... all enemies shall put to shame" (Psalm 132:17-18).

Place your faith and trust in the 'horn of David' and He will be the One who destroys your enemies.

Christ is the center of life, others come first in your life, and Satan no longer has a hold on your life.

You begin to serve God without fear.

(A). When Christ is the center of your life, whom do you fear? Nobody, for He is King over all kings.

(B). When others are first in your life, why do you hesitate? Decision making becomes easy.

(C). When Satan has no longer a hold on your life, why do you fear? You don't - you serve without it!