

C R E D O

Exploring The Christian Faith



Soteriology

- Moving to salvation.
- Looking at images of salvation in the NT

Soteriology

- Image: Slave to Christ
- Unsettled about the timing of this message.
 - Dr. Josef Tson, Romanian pastor who had been jailed for his role in promoting faith and freedom in 1974 and again in 1977, and eventually exiled in 1981.

Soteriology

- When he was speaking in America in the 1980's, he desired to be introduced as simply a slave of Christ.
- He said that "There aren't many people who are willing to introduce me as a slave. They substitute the word "servant" for "slave."

- DOULOS – servant, slave
- I am a white American. What do I know about slavery?
 - Which is a lie, because as I shared last week, we all know more about slavery than we should.



- Reverse course from last week
 - Shocking to the system
 - Jet engine on landing, reverse thrust
 - Saves brakes, allows shorter runways

With all the hesitation, why bother?

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- We lose something by neglecting slavery image.

- One of the common ways to refer to God in prayer at Slave churches in America, was My Master
 - At once a recognition of who is really in charge and a subtle protest against earthly master.

1 Peter 2.16

- Our freedom and our slavery come together in one verse.

¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

Justification

- Justification – just as if I never sinned
 - Judicial acquittal
 - In the context of slavery,
it means manumission - freeing of slave
 - Literally to let go of the hand

Justification

- Justification – just as if I never sinned
 - Not just freedom FROM but freedom FOR
 - Opens up a new relationship
 - Freedmen often buried in the family tombs of former masters



Redemption

Dr. Josef Tson,

- “But there is an important difference. A servant gives service to someone, but a slave belongs to someone. We commit ourselves to do something, but when we surrender ourselves to someone, we give ourselves up.”

Redemption

I Cor 6

You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Reconciliation

- Love that Enslaves
- Ravi Zacharias
 - Wedding Ring

Reconciliation

- Chesterton, from *The Defendant*
- The revolt against vows has been carried in our day even to the extent of a revolt against the typical vow of marriage. It is most amusing to listen to the opponents of marriage on this subject.

Reconciliation

- They appear to imagine that the ideal of constancy was a yoke mysteriously imposed on mankind by the devil, instead of being, as it is, a yoke consistently imposed by all lovers on themselves.

Reconciliation

- They have invented a phrase, a phrase that is a black and white contradiction in two words — ‘free-love’ — as if a lover ever had been, or ever could be, free. It is the nature of love to bind itself.

Reconciliation

Phil 2

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant,

Tson's questions:

- Are we committing ourselves to something
- Or are we completely surrendering ourselves to someone?

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, Exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty.

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

