

**MORE
THAN**
CONQUERORS
SERMON SERIES

@ALFREDSTREETBC



ALFREDSTREET.ORG

#MORETHANCONQUERORS

#IMREDEEMED

I'M REDEEMED

Roman 8:19-23
October 10-11, 2020

A SERMON BY
REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY, SENIOR PASTOR

@PASTORHJW



**Alfred
Street**
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Preacher: Pastor Howard-John Wesley

Sermon: I'm Redeemed

Scripture: Romans 8:19-23 (NIV)



CURRICULUM GUIDE



Sermon Summary

In the fifth installment of the Romans 8 series, “More Than Conquerors,” Pastor Wesley continues with an analysis of the word *redemption*. We learn that redemption means to be released upon receipt of ransom. We were held hostage by our sin, but God made a payment (the blood of Jesus Christ) and upon receipt of the blood, sin released us from captivity. And since we are released, we are redeemed to have hope in our future. It’s not just our lives that have been redeemed, but our future has been redeemed as well.

- a) Bad News: Sin always has hidden consequences and it always costs more than it tells you.
- b) Good News: Sin holds us hostage, but it doesn’t destroy our destiny. When we are redeemed our future is released.

Pastor Wesley further unpacks verse 19 to demonstrate that just like our lives, nature/creation has been held in bondage and decay and longs to be liberated into freedom and glory. The consequence of sin is that humanity’s interaction with the earth will be painful.

Key Points:

1. The earth is a reflection of our evil— we cannot detach ecological decay from political and economic injustice
2. The redeemed have a responsibility to do something to change our world

Notes for Facilitators:

Please remember that next week is an off week for the Village community. Please take some time to relax and get prayed up for the second half of the season.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. Share the toughest class/professor you remember from your educational journey.
2. Pastor Wesley shared a funny story of his son's visit to Nordstrom. What is something memorable you purchased in your teenage or younger years?
3. Many communities of color have been instituting earth friendly practices for generations whether it is reusing bags from the grocery store, repurposing everything from cookie containers to clothing, or using homemade non-toxic products in their homes. What earth friendly habits does your family have?



Into The Bible Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley highlighted Romans 8:23, "Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies." How has God given you redemption in your own life?
2. Talking about sin can be difficult. Consider James 4:1-7 and its encouragement to "resist the devil." What strategies, or spiritual practices do you have in place to resist the devil? When are you the strongest spiritually and when do you find yourself most vulnerable to sin?
3. The sermon ended with a moving rendition of Psalm 107:2, "Let the redeemed of the Lord *live* so." In your opinion, what does it mean to be redeemed? What do you believe Godly freedom looks like?

Life Application Questions:

1. Pastor Wesley discussed how the consequences of sin are more than personal and have an impact on our world. Given the current political climate and suffering in society (COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, racial injustices, etc.), what are some examples of how our sin has had an impact on the world? What do you think is our Christian responsibility to aid in the healing of our world?
2. Pastor Wesley warns us that sin holds us hostage and always costs us more than we thought we'd have to pay. Have you experienced sin holding you hostage? What unexpected consequences did you face and what did you learn from that experience?
3. How do you know that your ransom has been paid? When you look back at a time when you were held hostage by sin, what has changed? How do you now know that you are free from it?
4. This sermon reminds us that the blood of Jesus has released us from our sins. Even though many of us know this, we struggle to accept that our ransom has been paid. What guilt or shame have you found yourself holding on to in spite of your redemption? What can you begin to do to release yourself from that?
5. In this sermon, we learn that sin has individual, communal, and ecological impact. 2020 has shown us the impacts of this. As early voting begins, what does this sermon teach us about what to look for in our leaders? How does this influence who and what you will vote for?



"Can I Push It?"

1. The recent Vice Presidential debate brought issues like climate, healthcare, and policing to the forefront. Pastor Wesley warned that we will be held liable for what is happening on the Earth. As you examine this past year, who should we hold liable for the groanings of creation (politicians, church leaders, ourselves, etc.)?
2. Pastor Wesley taught us that the Roman civilization Paul was speaking to would have blamed Christians for whatever went wrong on the Earth. Even today, people will say disaster has come to communities because of their sin. In a moment of hurricanes and rampant wildfires, there is debate on whether or not it is fair or ethical to describe disaster as repayment for sin. What are your thoughts on this?

Activity:

1. Pastor Wesley shared how his brilliant Statistics for Engineers professor was not able to simplify complicated material for the students. In breakout rooms of 2-3, share with a partner how you simplify the Gospel when talking with a friend/family member/coworker. How would you share differently for each category?
2. In Breakout Rooms of 2 or 3, discuss the following question and then commit to pray for one another in your personal prayer time this week. John 8:36 says "so if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." What are you asking for freedom from this week? Pray for your partner this week and report back any testimonies you might have.



Spirit Work:

1. When you think about your spiritual well being, what is still a work in progress? Think about one actionable thing you can do to begin reviving that area of your spiritual life and living more freely. If it's prayer, consider calendaring prayer time this week. If it's study, consider pushing yourself through this week's village readings.
2. What can you do this week to steward the Earth more faithfully? Consider bringing your own reusable bag or requesting paper rather than plastic or if it's not cost prohibitive making a new non-toxic selection on your next shopping trip?
3. In your personal worship time this week, consider adding the following songs to your personal playlist. Consider adding any other other songs that might speak of freedom or redemption as an inspiration this week.

"I Am Redeemed" https://youtu.be/UPb-e_V4m7Q

"Say So" <https://youtu.be/LQ6kprzUBhM>

Readings for This Week:

Monday, October 12th	Psalm 107
Tuesday, October 13th	Genesis 3
Wednesday, October 14th	2 Peter 3:16
Thursday, October 15th	Hebrews 9:11-15
Friday, October 16th	2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5

Further Study:

[Learn more about Redemption \(apolutrósis\)](#)