

# The Grand Scope of Redemption

## Lesson 1: Why is Redemption Needed? (Part 1)

A Look at Creation, Sin and the Fall of Humanity.

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.*

Isaac Watts

### 1. The Centrality of the Cross of Christ

See 1 Cor. 2:2; 15:3-5; Gal. 6:14; Rev. 5:9-10 (cf. vss. 6 & 12)

Over 1/3 of Gospels focus on arrest, trials and crucifixion of Christ:

Matt. – 30%; Mark – 37%; Luke – 25%; John – 41%

### 2. God's Purpose in our Creation

See Gen. 1:26-27 – Created in the image of God (cf. Gen. 9:6; Psa. 8:3-8; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9)

Though man is like God he is not God. There remains an unbridgeable distinction between the Creator and His image-bearing creatures.

To be created in the image of God is to reflect the character of God as His representatives.

See Col. 3:9-11 (cf. vs. 4); Eph. 4:24 (cf. vs. 13); 2 Pet. 1:3-4 – “True knowledge” (Greek *epi-gnosis*) means “to know experientially or intimately.”

The renewal of the image of God is to be made like Christ (Rom. 8:29) and Christ is the perfect image of God (2 Cor. 4:4).

To fully reflect and represent the character of God we must come to know God intimately.

See Gen. 3:8 – The loss of fellowship marks the shattering of the image. Note *image* is related to reflecting God's glory but sin has corrupted that glory (see Psa. 8:5; Rom. 3:23; 2 Cor. 3:18).

The purpose of God's creating man is that we come to know and enjoy God (Psa. 16:11) in order to reflect the character of God (Lev. 19:2) and thus to ultimately glorify Him (see Rev. 4:11; 5:13).

Our existence derives from God and our meaning derives from God; therefore we are wholly dependent on Him. We have no significance or purpose apart from Him.

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## 3. The Fall of Humanity

See Gen. 2:16-17 – To enjoy and glorify God requires our perfect obedience.

True Freedom is set within God's sovereign boundaries. To violate those boundaries is to forfeit the joy of that freedom.

See Gen. 2:25 – “naked/ not ashamed” speaks of innocence and intimacy. Adam and Eve had nothing to hide from God or each other.

See Gen. 3:1 – Satan casts doubt upon the goodness of God.

“Any tree?” Note distortion of truth. The Lie: God is hiding something from you. He wants to deprive you of something good by His strict and stingy laws. God wants to deprive you of your innate right to choose.

See Gen. 3:4-5 – Satan outright contradicts God's truthfulness by accusing Him of lying. Satan enticing them with the promise of another kind of freedom in which we replace God with the power to be the captains of our own destiny.

The fall of man has led to the replacement of God. Sinful man now has the desire to be his own god or to create gods in his own image which is still to be one's own god.

See Gen. 3:6a – The fruit had 3 alluring characteristics (cf. 1 John 2:16):

- Physical Appeal – “good for food”
- Aesthetic Appeal – “delight to the eyes”
- Intellectual Appeal – “to make wise”

See Gen. 3:7 – The perception of nakedness coincides with the experience of shame. The natural reaction to shame is to cover it or in some manner dispose of it.

See Gen. 3:8 – The reality of shame makes us hide from God whom we know we have violated. See also John 3:19-20; Rom. 1:18-20, 32.

Note the following statement of the existentialist French Philosopher Jean Paul Sartre on how he became an atheist while still a child:

“I had been playing with matches and burned a small rug. I was in the process of covering up my crime when suddenly God saw me. I felt His gaze inside my head and on my hands... I flew into a rage against so crude an indiscretion, I blasphemed... He never looked at me again... I had more difficulty getting rid of Him [the Holy Ghost] in that He had installed Himself at the back of my head... I collared the Holy Ghost in the cellar and threw Him out.”