



# THE CHALLENGER

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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## Redemption

BY THE EDITOR

**H**OW wonderful to realize this provision is part of the many blessings we have IN Christ. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places IN Christ. By Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:3,7).

No part of God’s grace is understood apart from the total depravity of sinful man. Satan did a complete job in the Garden of Eden when he brought man down to a perverted mind, including a heart that was desperately wicked. “That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12). When sin entered the heart of man, he became absolutely unable and incapable of ridding him of that produced damnation in the sight of a holy God.

Only the provision of Christ on Calvary’s cross, taking upon Himself our deserved judgment, can atone for our sin. Let’s be sure to rejoice in this glorious provision of God’s grace. When man became identified with sin, God appeared on the scene with redemption, which is the purchasing with the blood of Christ, the condemned, damned rebel soul, and restoring him as a son with all of his Father’s eternal benefits. Redemption means to ransom, by purchasing or buying back. This provision was made available to man that He might once more be presentable in the presence of a holy God. There is a great gulf between Man’s sinfulness and God’s holiness. Man is left with no ability to stand before a holy God. It is God Himself Who must intervene, and He did so by the way of redemption. “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, have obtained eternal redemption for us” (Hebrews 9:12).

Believing in the verbal inspiration of the inerrant Scriptures as we do, let’s look at the various words that express the deliverance of sin’s condemnation and the work of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ:

**LUTROO** — “to loose by a price” (I Peter 1:18, Titus 2:14). We were slaves of Satan, sold under sin, and totally unable to ransom ourselves because of the absolute obedience due God.

**EXAGORAZO** — “to purchase out” (Galatians 3:13,4:4,5; Ephesians 5:16). Our Redeemer not only bought us out of captivity, but set us free from the bondage of sin.

**PAD-DAH** — “to set free, to let go.” This word is translated “redeem” some 250 times in the Bible.

**PAN-RAK** — “to break off, to tear away, rescue, deliver” (Psalm 136:24).

**P’DOOTH** — “I will put a division between my people and your people (Psalm 111:9,130:7).

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## From Box 400

*I am new to your Bible Study Course and literature program. I am truly thankful to participate in what you are teaching. I feel lonely at times, but I know that I am not forgotten. I hold to the promise Jesus left me with: **I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR FORSAKE YOU**. My heavenly Father is always there to hear my prayer. He comforts me. I am so blessed and proud to be a child of God. Thank you for your dedication of time and effort to provide your Bible study to those who wish to participate. May God continue to bless you, your volunteer workers, your families, and anyone else who contributes some part of their time to help someone else.*

*I want to thank you for all you do. The publications that you make available to prisoners are very uplifting. I have been saved for a very short time and now go to church services and sing in the choir. I realize, though, that I have a long way to go and a lot to learn. Your reading material helps me along the way. I am praying for you and your ministry.*

*Greetings in the magnificent Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, from a chaplain in Maryland. We want you to know that we have received your many wonderful cassette tapes, and we have added them to our library so the brothers may be blessed with the Word of God. Your continued support is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to your next series. God is at work in this prison changing hearts and lives. May God bless you and your ministry.*

## Redemption (continued from page 1)

GAH-AL — “to redeem, ransom, recover, revenge” (Exodus 6:6, Job 19:25). God will revenge us from the wrongs we have suffered at the hands of the world, death, and the devil.

ACORAZO — “to buy or purchase” (Revelation 5:9,10,14:3,4). Christ’s redemption in all of its fullness, power, and everlasting efficacy is applied to us the moment we receive Him as our Savior and Lord, but completion will not be ours until we see Him face to face.

### How Redemption Was Secured

From the hour God made coats of skin to cover Adam and Eve in the Garden, blood was the purchase price for access to God. “. . . You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Revelation 5:9). The law demanded death. On the cross Christ bore the Law’s curse and suffered its condemnation of death. Acquittal can only be claimed on the ground of a satisfied law. We are bought with a price. (I Corinthians 6:20, 7:23) God sent His Son to redeem us. (I Corinthians 1:30) Christ gave Himself as a ransom. (Romans 3:24, Galatians 3:13, Titus 2:14) In the dateless past, God’s love planned our redemption. (Isaiah 52:3) We must bear in mind that a sinner is both helpless and hopeless. Only in the grace of God can we find the glorious provision of redemption. By the precious blood of Christ we have been redeemed from the penalty, power, and consequences of sin; from the curse of condemnation, and the rule of the law; and from this present evil world, the wrath of God and the suffering in hell.

### Set Free

H. S. Miller in his *Christian Manual* has summarized the great expansion of redemption. We have been set free from:

#### ALL INIQUITY OF SIN (Psalm 130:8, Titus 2:14)

1. The curse of the law (Galatians 3:13)
2. The bondage of the law (Galatians 4:5)
3. The power of sin (Romans 6:18,22)
4. The vain manner of life (I Peter 1:18)
6. All evil (Genesis 48:16)
7. All trouble (Psalm 25:22)
8. All distress (I Kings 1:26)
9. All adversity (II Samuel 4:9)
10. Deceit and violence (Psalm 72:14)
11. Destruction (Psalm 103:4)
12. Death (Job 5:20, Hosea 13,14)
13. Hell (Psalm 49:15)
14. The hand of the enemy (Psalm 106:10,107:2)
15. Our enemies (Psalm 136:24, Micah 4:10)

Because of our precious redemption (Psalm 49:8) and our plenteous (Psalm 130:7) and eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:12), may we realize what the Lord purchased for us when He died on the cross as a sinless substitute for sinners. We are redeemed from the past, redeemed now and in the future. Christ purchased our entrance into heaven to dwell with Him in eternity.

When speaking of the blood of Christ, it refers to His death on the cross, where He died in our deserved place. We trust His death to be satisfactory to a holy God. Through identification with Christ we have been redeemed, bought out of the slave market, while we were headed for hell according to God’s announced judgment for our

sin. The provision of redemption is our portion when being placed IN Christ upon our becoming a Christian. It is one of the many blessings announced in Ephesians 1. In years gone by we sang of it in the hymn “Redeemed,” written by Fanny Crosby: “REDEEMED, HOW I LOVE TO PROCLAIM IT!” Hear God’s admonition to talk about it: “LET THE REDEEMED OF THE LORD SAY SO” (Psalm 107:2).

## Personal Word

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level in the past decades. This information comes from Duke University.

Having a child out of wedlock is either fornication (unmarried) or adultery (married). The Bible is very clear that all those participants in sex sin who refuse to repent DO NOT enter heaven. The only eternal abode left for them is hell. (Galatians 5:19-21) The Bible has a great deal to say about this subject. Why? God knew of the coming sexual discretions and abominations. As it was in the Garden of Eden, so it is today. We want no one telling us what to do and not do. Sinful man hates the thought of some day giving an account to anyone for what they do. Imagine it, if you can. A finite creature saying to the infinite Creator of the universe, “DO NOT TELL ME WHAT TO DO!”

## From Box 400

*I have found another inmate who has agreed to take your Bible Study Course. His name is listed on the orange form.*

*I want to take this time to thank you for time and patience to allow me to participate in this course. Thank you.*

*I have filled out one of the free literature handouts and would very much like to have the requested items. Also, please place my name on your Challenger mailing list. I really enjoy reading the articles and then passing it on to others. Thank you for being my friend and for being part of my spiritual growth.*

– WI

## Personal Word

It was often that people stopped by to chat with me. Being alongside of I-95, it was easy for them to get to our new Miami church building. Just another visitor I did not know? He came into my study indicating what pleasure was his to see me face to face. He had been looking forward to this occasion for a few years. His story was thrilling to hear. He worked Sunday mornings as a baker for some resort hotels. Every Sunday morning he listened to our broadcast over the Boca Raton station. The Lord spoke to his heart as he dared to believe that which he was hearing. God called him into His ministry. He graduated from a Baptist seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He came to the conviction that he must see me before beginning his ministry next Sunday as a pastor. I asked him what would be his message in the pulpit. "I am going to preach the same message you do on the radio, 'THE WORD OF GOD'," he said.

Friend of mine, never forget that God speaks through His Word, not ours. Preacher friend, make God's message the center of your entire ministry. Whatever your involvement may be, by prayer and purse you share in God's work in the lives of those who hear His provision of grace through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### I Would Like to Know!

On our web-site, how many different messages have you read? Have you downloaded any of them? On our audio list, how many have you heard? Are you keeping up reading our publication, *The Challenger*? Are you reading the new page "Pastor Porter's Personal Pen"? This personal greeting changes every so often. I would certainly like to know if you are reading and listening! I praise God for this response from New York: "*I download from your literature. They are powerful! Praise God, as I use them to witness and for God's glory.*"

Please remember that we depend much on your prayers and appreciate your gifts to help us reach people with Truth. Every day we are feeding hungry believers with genuine biblical teaching. None of this happens unless friends like you help shoulder the financial weight. Your fellowship in this regard brings others face to face with life-transforming Truth. Thank you for the privilege of ministering to you and with you.

### A Needed Ministry

According to the US Department of Justice, as of June 30, 2007, American prisons and jails held 2,299,116 inmates. The U.S. has experienced a surge in the prison population quadrupling since the "war on drugs." Nearly one million are incarcerated for non-violent crimes. I want to tell you, friend, that we are doing something about it. Into hundreds of prisons goes our literature and audio messages on cassettes and CDs. Hundreds are involved in our Bible Study Course, which I believe is one of our most effective methods of communicating the Word of God. Requests for our ministry are on the increase since many prisons no longer receive subsidy for literature from their prison system. Pray for wisdom in our planning to expand this very important ministry. Thousands of printed messages are mailed to them monthly, plus the bulk mailing of our publication. Pray for many genuine conversions, and the spiritual strengthening of the believers. Remember, our prison ministry is in addition to those we are ministering to, some of whom also should be inmates (jesting). We go in all directions, reaching precious hearts everywhere. Oh, how important they are in God's sight.

### A Reshaping of America?

What is going on in the once great nation of the USA? The Federal Reserve had distributed trillions of paper dollars in the world economy. Our energy secretary has been mulling over a bank reform program, while rising concerns over his incompetence increases. In the meantime, we have a monumental, dysfunctional U.S. Congress. Stock and financial markets have been paralyzed. We know that some members of Congress have lied to us. We have discovered that some of our national leaders have not paid all of their taxes. No one seems to be able to give us answers as to what is going to happen. The depth or length of this recession is unknown. I admire their reply as to what is going to happen: "I DO NOT KNOW."

The expansion of government spending and plunging our country into unprecedented deficits is without parallel in our history. Our political leaders are adding some of our greatest expenditures to this financial difficulty. I am fast coming to the conclusion that all this action will lead to a reshaping of America. The greed and action motivated by personal financial gain has caught up with us. God warned us that we can be sure that our sin will find us out. (Numbers 32:23) By the way, have you heard of our leaders calling upon God, depending on Him to give them wisdom and direction for the present and future needs?

With our new president we are about to witness the full power of the federal government promoting the homosexual movement. The thing I feared the most is fast becoming a reality. On our president's web-site comes the Shepherd Act which "gives the Justice Department the power to investigate and prosecute biased-motivated violence where the perpetrator has selected victim of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability." Another proposed federal law is "making it illegal to fire, refusal to hire or refusal to promote employees simply based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity." The day is coming when the

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## Personal Word (continued from page 3)

preacher in his pulpit faces jail if he preaches the Bible's revelation about homosexuality. Our Christian schools will be forced to hire them. Prior to his election, our new president endorsed all such legislation with the exception of same-sex marriage. He states on his web-site his desire to "enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100 federal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples, to civil unions, and other legally-recognized unions."

In the days ahead, we are in for some strife and sad divisions within our country. I believe the battle has been won by the homosexuals. The last election determined it. Most all voters knew these clear issues. Their votes indicate the moral standards of America. God's stated position on this issue meant little to most voters.

### History-Making Years

More babies were born in the USA (2007) than any other year in our nation's history. This tops the years of the baby boomers. (My son is one of these.) Forty percent of this record year included unwed mothers and those living with their boyfriend outside of marriage. Can you believe this? It makes absolutely no difference to these women what God's declared authority of marriage actually is. Why be surprised? They are living in a day of man's denial of the Word of God. His authority is refused in all areas of their environment. By the way, three-fourths of these unmarried mothers are over 20 years of age. It is interesting to note that abortions are at their lowest

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## AN ENCOURAGING LETTER

In all our years of prison ministry, this prisoner is the only one who has supported us systematically. From time to time, gifts have been received from several other inmates.

*How are you, Dr. Porter? I'm doing well. I pray my letter finds you doing well and in the best of health.*

*It was a joy to receive your letter the other day. It has been a privilege to support your ministry during my years of incarceration. Time has really flown by: April 13 marks my sixteenth year in prison. God in His mercy and grace has granted me true repentance and my faith is in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. There are times when I wish I could have come to salvation apart from coming to prison, but I don't think it would have happened. I wouldn't trade these years in prison for anything, because now I can look forward to eternity with my Lord and Savior.*

*The Kentucky legislature is considering some changes to several laws that directly affect me. There is a good chance that I'll be released this summer or when I meet the parole board for the second time in March of 2010. Whether in prison or out, I'll continue to support your ministry. Thanks for being true to the Word. God bless you as you stand for Truth.*

*I am fortunate to have a loving family who has supported me while in prison. God has granted me favor with prison officials in allowing me to have a good job and to be in a one-man cell. God has been with me at every turn, and I am so grateful. Things have not always been easy, but I understand through many trials and tribulations must we enter in.*

*My prayer is to one day be able to worship with you. Take care of yourself, and I pray that God will bless and keep you. Continue to lift me up in prayer and I will do likewise.*

- KY

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### OUR OPERATION

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

~ WEB SITE ~  
[thehourofgraceandpower.org](http://thehourofgraceandpower.org)

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*"Be you steadfast, unmovable, always  
abounding in the work of the Lord . . .  
You know your labor is not in vain  
in the Lord" | Corinthians 15:58*

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