

Redeemed From The Curse *By Pastor Anison Samuel*

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”. Galatians 3:13

For the Jewish people, “hanged on a tree (talah)”, was the highest form of curse and was commonly used when referring to the slave market. In response, Paul asserted that those filled with the Holy Spirit will never say, “Jesus is cursed”, a term that was commonly attributed to Christ as a result of:

His body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance. Deuteronomy 21:2,3

According to the law, a man hung on a tree, defiles land. As such, defilement is not attributed to the cross but land instead. Yet, the cross is also where our hearts are purified from every form of sin. Jesus is commonly referred to as having been hung on a cross, yet the Apostle Paul and others repeatedly stated that Christ was instead, hung on a tree (Acts 5). Those who enter heaven, will encounter the Tree of Life.

Revelation 22:2,3,14,15

Polarization occurs at the tree. The story of humanity begins with a tree that sin entered through disobedience. In the end, the final redemption of humanity will also involve a tree and what stands in the middle, is another tree on which our Savior died and our sins are washed away. Christ, who died on a tree, embodied the Tree of Life for He is the Tree of Life and source of all healing. The tree of life is wisdom; Jesus is wisdom. The tree of life is righteousness; just as Jesus is righteousness. On that day, Jesus hung on a tree to give access to the Tree of Life, where our hope is fulfilled and our redemption is secured. Because of one man’s disobedience and the curse that ensued, Jesus (the true Tree of Life), hung on another tree and became a curse.

The question remains: Does curse remain, even after Jesus died for us?

Even the sweat that drips from your brow after you toil, is a sign of curse. So is childbirth, death and the weeds, thorns and thistles that grow in your backyard. Only on the day of our final redemption through Jesus Christ, will the earth be free of this curse.

What curse then, has Jesus delivered us from?

Jesus delivered us from the curse of the law (not to be mistaken for the natural curse). We are not yet fully redeemed from the natural curse because we still remain within our natural bodies but we have been delivered from another curse.

Curse of the Law (Galatians 3:10)

Salvation by works will only place you under the curse. Your only work is to believe in the One who died for you on the cross.

Salvation does not depend on your righteousness, church attendance or confession; only on what Christ did on the cross. For this reason only, are you saved: Jesus hung on a tree to deliver you from the curse so that you might receive every covenantal blessings of Abraham. You are supposed to walk in the blessings of Abraham because Christ redeemed you from the curse.

What does the Bible define as blessing?

- In Hebrew, the word blessing is translated as ‘barack’ which is found in the Bible, 67 times to be ‘blessing’ and 61 times as ‘blessed’. Its major function seems to confer abundant and effective life.

- This blessing is not based on circumstances. This is not a sprinkling of blessings but instead, a God-given mechanism synonymous to a magnet that attracts blessings wherever you go!
 - If the blessing of Abraham resides in you, no devil can touch your life.
- In Greek, the word 'blessing' is *eulogia*. Read Deuteronomy 28:4-13
- Just as in Old Testament times, God's people were the Israelites, God has chosen you as one of his special people. Because of the cross, you are one of God's peculiar and chosen people. (Read Exodus 19:5,6; Deuteronomy 14:2; 1 Peter 2:9; 3:9)

God's people are called for blessing. You are a chosen generation and peculiar people who are called for blessing. This word for blessing (barack) has been given under the Abrahamic covenant and is now yours.

In Matthew 27, on the mount called Golgotha, stood a tree on which the Tree of Life became a curse so that we might have access to the Tree of Life.

A person who hung on a tree was cursed because they were stranded and rejected by both heaven and earth. From that exact spot, God opened the way for us and countless others. Jesus hung suspended between heaven and earth so that your life will never be suspended. Your path to heaven can be accessed through Jesus Christ.