

Redemption
Sermon Discussion Questions
January 19, 2020

1. As we continue on in the current nine-week series which has brought us through Creation and Election, this week's sermon was on the doctrine of Redemption. Pastor Jim stated that since God created us and loves us, since he has chosen us and we have accepted his invitation, he is obligated to labor, work and fight for our good as we go through difficulty and danger. Have you considered the idea of redemption before this sermon? If no, was this sermon helpful? If you have considered the idea of redemption before, did today's sermon change any thoughts you may have had?
2. Pastor Jim took us to Exodus 14 where Israel has just been freed from slavery in Egypt and they are approaching the Red Sea. They look back only to see the Egyptians have changed their minds and are marching after them. The Israelites are terrified and they cry out to God and he shows up and delivers them. Jim states that God showed up because he was obligated to show up. Since Abraham chose God, God is now on the hook to rescue the Israelites, his chosen people. Is this a comfort for you, knowing that if you are a child of God, God will act on your behalf? That God cannot not act? Who can you think of today that this could be an encouragement to?
3. Sometimes when we cry out to God to fight for us in the midst of struggles in this life, we may not get the deliverance we had in mind. When you or a loved one is facing a terminal diagnosis and you ask God for healing, he may or may not give you healing on this earth. However, even in death God is fighting for us. For those that we lose in this lifetime, if they have chosen to accept God's invitation, death is not the end.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-56. Discuss how God gives us victory over death. Also, Pastor Jim mentioned that for those in mourning, God gives them the comfort and strength they stand in need of. How have you seen this in your life or the life of someone close to you?

4. There are many areas where God can and will fight for us. Pastor Jim mentioned six areas in particular; the battle against death, against our cravings and sins, in the midst of sickness and trouble, in the face of betrayal, against injustice and against the effects of his discipline in our lives. In regards to these areas or others, share with each other where you have seen God show up and fight for you.
5. Even though God has promised to fight for you, just like the Israelites, when we are in the midst of suffering or struggles it may seem as though God isn't fighting for us...until he does. Where might you be waiting for God to show up and fight for you? Spend time as a group praying that God shows up for one another.