

SOME TERMS DEFINED

It is well to study here some words that Paul uses. It stands to reason that no one can understand a passage of Scripture unless he understands the words of the passage. In studying these words we shall consider only those meanings that related to the salvation of sinners.

1. **JUSTIFY** -- To justify a person is to pronounce him just, or righteous; to declare him not guilty. Of course, if a person kept the law perfectly, he would be justified; he would be declared not guilty. If God forgives a sinner, there is then nothing against him. He is free from guilt - he is as righteous as if he had never sinned.

2. **GRACE** -- Grace is favor. It is a benefit bestowed without pay -- the gratuitous bestowal of a thing that a person needs. The sinner needs forgiveness -- needs to be righteous. Only through God's grace is it possible for a sinner to be forgiven, or to be justified. No matter how many things he may be required to do as conditions of forgiveness, it does not destroy the fact that, on God's part, his forgiveness and justification are wholly of grace. No amount of works will destroy the fact that forgiveness is by grace.

3. **REDEEMER** -- A redeemer is one who rescues another from bondage, or liberates another from any condition wherein he is held. Jesus redeems us from the bondage of sin and from the power of the devil. He is our only Redeemer.

4. **RANSOM** -- Ransom is the price for redeeming. Jesus came to "give his life a ransom for many." Matt. 20:28; Mk. 10:45. Hence, he became that which is given in exchange for another as the price of his redemption. I Tim. 2:6. "Christ died for the ungodly." Rom. 5:6. "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works." Tit. 2:14.

5. **REDEMPTION** -- Redemption is the act of redeeming. Christ is called "redemption" because the whole process of redemption is centered in him. I Cor. 1:30. Jesus is our redeemer -- no one else can rescue us from the bondage of sin. He is also our Ransom, for he was the price paid for our redemption. And in him God graciously provided a means by which sinners can be justified -- the one that is in connection with Christ.