



# THE NEW SHAPE

Day 2 – S2 / 10/09/2022 : Michel Lolo

## FOCUS ON REDEMPTION

### [Part 1]

Redemption is repurchasing something or paying the price or ransom to return something to your possession. It means freeing someone from chains, prison, or slavery. Therefore, saying that we are redeemed implies that we have been repurchased.

Redemption can be divided into a timeline of past,



## B R A A M F A M I L Y

present, and future. The redemption that took place in the past is the one of the human spirit (the inner man); this was the work of the Son - Jesus Christ, when He died on the Cross (see John 3:6 and 1 Peter 1:3). Then there is the redemption which is taking place in the present which is of our soul (mind). It is the work of the Word of God. It is a continuous work of transformation and cleansing where the word divides what is being saved and what is already saved (see Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 5:26, Romans 12:2 and Psalms 119:9). Finally, there is the redemption which will take place in the future - it is for our physical bodies, which is the work the Holy Spirit will do on the

Ephesians 1:1-14

John 3:6

1 Peter 1:3

Hebrews 4:12

Ephesians 5:26

Romans 12:2

Psalms 119:9

Romans 8:11

Romans 10:9-10

Romans 12:1-2

2 Corinthians 10: 5

2 Corinthians 3:18

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8:5



James 1:13-15

Romans 7:18, 23-24

Romans 8:1

Proverbs 4:20-22

Mark 14:36

Romans 6:12-14

day of the Lord's return (Romans 8:11).

There then comes a struggle from within for an individual living with a redeemed spirit, a soul being redeemed and a body waiting to be redeemed. The challenge is for the new shape within to be expressed on the outside. The new shape started inside with your inner man on the day you believed with your heart that Jesus was dead for your sins and was risen again for your justification, and then you confessed with your mouth that He is your Lord and your Saviour. It is explained in Romans 10:9-10. First, the heart believes, and then the mouth confesses. The heart needs substance from which the mouth will confess. The Bible says, "it's from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks."

The solution to the challenge can be found in the camp's theme verse; Romans 12:1-2 NKJV, which says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the good and acceptable and perfect will of God is."

The first solution found in the above verse is to let your mind be renewed. The word 'let' implies that there is permission from our side, a collaboration that births results. It is to choose to not 'conform' but be 'transformed'. The word con means 'with', trans means 'beyond', and form means 'shape'. In other words, this verse says: Do not be with this world's form (shape) but go beyond the form (shape). The world has a shape of its own; from there, it has a mindset on how you should be, and being born in this world automatically aligns you with that mindset. Once you become born again, you are called to go beyond the form of this world.

Going beyond the world's form can only be possible with the renewal of the mind. Meaning it is to progressively format the old mindset, refilling it with new information about the Kingdom, giving you a new form that goes beyond that of this world. Bear in mind that it is a process, which explains why even being Christian, your body tends to do things against God.

Every process has a goal, and the goal of the renewal of the mind is to bring the whole mind captive to the obedience of Christ (see 2 Corinthians 10: 5). This verse doesn't say that our thoughts are to be captivated to obey Christ but should be captive to His obedience. The obedience of Christ is Him accomplishing the will of His Father [Christ has performed everything to the standard of God]. Jesus did everything the Father expected the perfect Son to do, and He fully pleased the Father. Therefore, a mind captive to the obedience of Christ is attached to what He has done, acknowledging and resting on the truth that He has done everything (see 2 Corinthians 3:18). It is a mind focused on the finished works of Christ. Thus, the renewal of the mind is to shift your thoughts from what you can do to what He has done, and we don't need to do more. Therefore, let us find rest in Christ's obedience because trying to merit His love will only frustrate God's grace. Fight to always stay in the rest of Christ.

## [Part 2]

As mentioned in part 1, the first solution to the struggle of allowing the new shape to be expressed is letting your mind be renewed. The end goal is to bring the whole mind captive to the obedience of Christ. It is foolishness to fight to change your outward without a renewed mind. The only fight you must fight is for your mind to be renewed by allowing your thoughts to be captive to the obedience of Christ, and the external shape will slowly adjust and go beyond the old form.



The second solution to the struggle is to offer your body as a living sacrifice. We offer the body because the spirit man has already been renewed (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), and the soul (mind) is in the process of renewal; the body needs to join the party. His Spirit in us enables us to accept the righteousness of God and

choose godliness even with a corrupted body. It is called the law of the Spirit, and that is what creates in us the desire and the appreciation for the things of God (see Romans 8:5). The law of the Spirit is what makes us able to offer our body as a living sacrifice. It also exposes us and prompts our bodies to create and remain in an environment that facilitates the renewal of intelligence.

Now your soul is where salvation is constantly happening because of the presence of the flesh. The flesh is often used interchangeably with the body because its effects are directly seen from the body. The flesh is the strong tendency in your soul to lead the body to sin and refers to the physical nature with all the cravings that incite sin. It was created in man in the beginning after Adam sinned. Adam's disobedience made this inclination to sin; by default, every man is born with it. Before Adam and Eve sinned, they had free will but no inclination to sin, but after being tempted by Satan and falling, they became inclined to sin. Jesus, as the second Adam, didn't have the flesh, He was also tempted based on his free will, but glory to God, He chose to obey God. So, Satan comes to push man to disobey God to trigger a good taste or appetite for sin (see James 1:13-15).

Paul expresses his frustration with the flesh in Romans 7:18, 23-24; His flesh fails to align with the new shape within. He says, 'who can deliver me from this body (flesh)'. Receiving Christ certainly delivers us from condemnation (Romans 8:1), kills the old man, but does not kill the flesh because the flesh is attached to our mortal body. That's why certain Christians are referred to as 'carnal Christians'.

Now, you offer the body because it has different entry gates to your soul (eye gate, ear gate), and your body still lives in a corrupted world full of junk and corrupt content. Our gates are fully interactive with the world, and the body will want to conform. The body is not saved yet, and since the flesh hasn't been removed, it is essential to put your body in a position where the influence of the external corrupted environment is limited. The content that passes through your entry gates should be well-filtered. As the Bible says in Proverbs 4:20-22 NKJV, "My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh."

The flesh becomes increasingly diluted by offering your body as a living sacrifice while waiting for the glorified body. A body offered as a living sacrifice facilitates you in going beyond the shape of this world. However, it seems contradictory because a sacrifice is something dead, but how can a sacrifice be living? Like the sacrifice that Jesus was, He died for us. Not only did He die, but He also rose, and He lives forever. Thus, offering your body as a sacrifice is not physical crucifixion, but it means to be dead and numb to worldly practices whilst living. Jesus was the first living sacrifice, the example that we should follow. Before Jesus died on the Cross with His body, he died in Gethsemane in His will (see Mark 14:36)

We may then ask where and how there is rest in Christ when offering your body as a living sacrifice requires you to be active. The rest we get from Christ is at the soul's level, negating the anxiety of wanting to earn God's favour. On the other side, physical fatigue is sorted through physical rest, and the rest of the soul comes from Christ. The body is both a gift and a tool for the work of God. There's a work and a mission attached to your body for the will of God.

Jesus carried His body for the execution of the will of God, and that should be our life pursuit - to disappear so that the interests of God take place. Offering our bodies is the service we offer to God through praying and fasting. Note that it is not by good works that one is saved, but we are saved for good works, and even in that work, we rest in Christ. With a renewed mind and living a sacrifice, we can go beyond this world's form and discern God's good, acceptable and perfect will.

"Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Romans 6:12-14 NKJV

