

Our Kinsman Redeemer

“Either his uncle, or his uncle’s son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him . . .” (Leviticus 25:49).

Have you been waiting to meet that rich uncle everyone talks about? Well, the next generation of college students, our children and grandchildren, may meet him soon. “MyRichUncle” is a national student loan company offering federal and private loans to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Of course, like other student loans of the past, the borrowers will be paying their uncle back for years to come.

None of my uncles were or are rich, but I feel like I am rich because of their influence in my life. For instance, Uncle Joe and Uncle R. B., both now with the Lord, were gospel preachers. Uncle Bill has been the music director in my old home church for over 50 years. Uncle Russell, Uncle Mike, Uncle Cecil, Uncle Frank, Uncle Stuart, Uncle Lionel and Uncle Walter never made me feel less than important.

The “kinsman redeemer” of the Old Testament was a very significant personality. To redeem property or people, this individual had to meet three qualifications. First, he had to be near of kin, usually an uncle or a cousin. Second, he had to have the funds necessary to pay the redemptive price. In other words, he had to be a rich uncle! And third, he had to be willing to carry out the redemptive process. From these three vantage points, Christ is our Kinsman Redeemer!

The Lord Jesus is our near Kinsman Redeemer! Yes, He is the Son of God! But He is also the Son of man. He became kin to us at Bethlehem. As stated in one text, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same.” The law could not redeem us. But by “sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh” (Rom. 8:3), God provided a Kinsman Redeemer.

The Lord Jesus is our rich Kinsman Redeemer! Being God in the flesh, He is rich in nature. All His personal attributes are divine. John testified, “And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). The Lord Jesus is also rich in goodness, mercy, and love, all of which were necessary to redeem fallen, unlovely sinners like you and me. He had the wherewithal to pay the redemptive price.

The Lord Jesus is our willing Kinsman Redeemer! If the Old Testament kinsman did not agree to participate in the redemptive process, his kinship and his money didn’t mean anything. Similarly, we needed more than a near, rich Kinsman Redeemer. Thank God! The Lord Jesus willingly “gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world” (Gal. 1:4). May we all embrace Him as “Our Kinsman Redeemer!”