



REDEMPTION IS NEAR

Jesus will exchange your sin for eternal life.

by BOB HOSTETLER

MOM KEPT THEM in a kitchen drawer. Two rumpled booklets. Neither looked like much. But Mom treasured them.

One was her *S&H Green Stamps Quick Saver Book*; “Only 1200 Stamps Fill This” the cover boasted. The other was her *Top Value Stamp Book*, less colorful but with a picture of a red-and-white-checkered elephant on the cover and the assertion “This Book Requires Only 30 Pages of Stamps.”

Our family collected stamps everywhere we spent money: supermarkets, gas stations, and occasionally at some restaurants. The stamps would pile up in the drawer until

Mom got around to pasting them into the books. Then those books, when filled, could be mailed in or taken to a “redemption center” where they could be exchanged

for merchandise: towels, sporting goods, pots and pans, toys, and even small kitchen appliances. All in exchange for those rumpled books of tiny trading stamps.

The person who finds new life through faith in Jesus experiences something similar. The exchange isn’t books of stamps for table lamps; instead, it’s a soul’s emptiness, sin, and brokenness in exchange for forgiveness, cleansing, and new life. And the “redemption center” isn’t at a store or

display room but sometimes at a bedside, a kitchen table, or a church altar. And the exchange is far more valuable. Trading stamps mostly disappeared in the 1970s, but the offer of redemption through faith in Jesus is ongoing. The Bible says Jesus “gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works” (Titus 2:14).

Your “redemption center” can be right where you are, right now. The exchange can

begin with a sincere prayer, saying, “Father, I bring to You all my sin.

I give You all my emptiness and my brokenness. In exchange, I ask for the redemption Jesus provided through His death and resurrection: forgiveness

of sins, a clean heart, and a new start. I surrender to You and ask You to rule my life and help me walk with You daily in this new, eternal life I could never have possessed otherwise. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer, tell a pastor or Christian friend, or call 888-537-8720.



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us to redeem us” (Titus 2:14).

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