

Living to Win

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Christian Educational Ministries

The Redeemer

From Ronald L. Dart's *Born to Win* Notes

This message is crucial for Christians and non-Christians alike. For too long, for generations in fact, Christians have cloaked their faith in church speak, jargon that too often, even they don't understand. In a sense, it is inevitable, because most church or religious radio and television programs are taped in church. That is to say that the speaker is talking to an audience of insiders who know the vocabulary, or at least think they do.

On the other hand, when questioned carefully about their beliefs, too many Christians have to admit they don't really understand what their church teaches.

This is one difference between the *Born to Win* program and some others. I am not speaking to people in church. I may be talking to a housewife doing the ironing, or a trucker headed west out of San Antonio on Interstate 10, or to an elderly woman lying in bed listening to the radio because she can't sleep. It forces me to think carefully about what I am saying when I try to explain something. It is just as well, because a lot of Christian people wouldn't get it either, even though they might pretend that they do.

It is, in large measure, a problem

of words. For example, a fellow once suggested that I should have a page on my website titled, "How to be Saved." It sounds like a good idea, but it leaves wide open the question of what "being saved" actually means. Christians use words in a sense that is sometimes far from what the Bible is really saying. This is illustrated by a lovely Christian

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song I heard on the radio just last night: "There is a Redeemer, Jesus,

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That Others Might Hear. . .

A little over a year ago, the economy and other factors hit CEM hard. Being good stewards of what God had given us, we knew that we had to cut expenses—beginning first with executive salaries and then the *Born to Win* broadcasts until our income covered expenses. The impact: no longer could as many people hear Ron Dart so clearly and effectively explain the Bible in a timely manner. We did what we had to do, but never has there been a more urgent time to start adding back radio stations across this nation so that more and more people can hear and understand the Gospel as they relate to today's current events. This is especially true in an election year, and in troubled times such as Europe is experiencing. Never forget, if Europe falls, our nation could be next. If you, or you and a friend, or you and your church could sponsor a *Born to Win* broadcast, call Cathy Gibbons at 903-839-7070. She is our advertising agent and will try to negotiate the best possible price. She will keep an eye on it as well. If you don't know anyone to share a *Born to Win* sponsorship, CEM always welcomes donations to help. Please give this much prayer and thought. Times are changing rapidly and people need to hear the Bible preached so clearly. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Economics and the World Order (Part 3)

By C. Roderick Martin, a CEM board member

Given the looming March 20 deadline, at which time Greece must pay 160 billion dollars to debt holders, political leaders throughout Europe are desperately searching for a solution. Each week, news reports claim they have found a solution, only to find hopes dashed the following week. Why should we care if Greece defaults?

Greece is one of 17 countries formed from the European Union (27 countries) that comprise the Eurozone. Established January 1, 1999, the Eurozone uses one currency—the euro. Most of the remaining European Union countries are obliged to join once they meet certain criteria. Currently, the following countries make up the Eurozone: France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta, Finland, and the Netherlands. No country has ever left. Indeed, there are no provisions for leaving or expulsion. The monetary policy is the responsibility of the European Central Bank (ECB). Its primary task is controlling inflation. Governed by a president and a board comprised of heads of national central banks, they have no responsibility for fiscal policy—no centralized fiscal

policy—therein lies the paramount obstacle for lasting success of the Eurozone.

Should Greece default or restructure their debt (technically a default), European banks could take a massive hit unless specific provisions are adopted; US banks would also take a loss. The biggest fear is it could spread to other Eurozone countries effectively destroying the Eurozone in its present configuration.

Spain, Portugal, Italy, and Ireland could be the next dominoes to fall should Greece default. There are still many options available if the European leaders can agree. As witnessed in the United States, getting politicians to agree is a herculean task. We should keep informed as to how these issues are resolved—will they kick the can down the road?

Austerity measures imposed on these countries by the ECB, Germany, and France have led to public unrest that could topple current administrations. In addition, the upcoming elections in France could change the landscape once again.

If the Eurozone unravels, there are some events to which we should pay particular attention. First, it may morph into a smaller group of nations; second, if the euro is

severely damaged, German goods will become very pricey, curtailing exports and forcing Germany to act nationalistically; third, the election of leaders who are nationalistic; fourth, other world events that would severely impact world economies; fifth, the continued European spiral into a deeper recession; sixth, serious talks of a world currency. Any of these events would have dire consequences on the United States and you, individually.

From biblical prophecy, we know an economic meltdown is coming; we can only watch events and surmise how it could happen, always cognizant of our own bias. This is an ongoing crisis, determined by people with personal agendas. We must recognize that any analysis is esoteric and challenging. Keep reading the *Living to Win* each month. We will strive to keep you abreast of any significant developments we perceive as threatening. Hopefully, you are now armed with salient principles that will aid when discerning economic decisions by world leaders and their impact on World Order. One final thought: Always look for the appearance of an influential leader who seems to have the answers.

Special Notice

The Passover will be April 6, 2012 with the Days of Unleavened Bread following. For your convenience, a holy day offering envelope is enclosed for your offering.

The Redeemer

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God's own son."

For most people, "redeemer" is church speak—just another word for Jesus, synonymous with "Savior." But this is still a problem when you don't even understand what "Savior" means. Saved from what? Saved for what?

But this word "redeemer" says far more than most Christians imagine. So who knows what it says to those of you who are not Christians? I'd like to remedy that for both of you. In the ancient world, the system of justice was very different from ours. There were judges and courts, of course, but the courts consisted of elders who "sat in the gate"—the equivalent of our county court house.

As in our system, no man was to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process. One aspect of due process was the city of refuge. It is first described in Numbers 35:10-12: "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares. And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment."

Now here's the catch. The Hebrew word translated "avenger" is also the word translated elsewhere as "redeemer." Why is that significant, you ask? The ancient world was a lot like west Texas was in the old days. They used to say there was no law west of the Brazos

River and no God west of the Pecos. What this meant was that you had to be your own law and order.

If a man killed your brother, there was no one to punish the killer except you. This was the society of the time of the Judges in Israel—no centralized government, no sheriff. That did not mean there was no law, but that society was structured very differently from anything familiar to us today. In that world, if someone killed your brother, you had the right—actually, the responsibility—to act as an avenger of blood. You were the designated executioner.

But to give the killer due process, the cities of refuge were established. Here's how it worked: "And this is the case of the slayer, which shall flee thither, that he may live: Whoso killeth his neighbour ignorantly, whom he hated not in time past; As when a man goeth into the wood with his neighbour to hew wood, and his hand fetcheth a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slippeth from the helve, and lighteth upon his neighbour, that he die; he shall flee unto one of those cities, and live" (Deuteronomy 19:4-5).

Simple manslaughter. "Lest the avenger of the blood pursue the slayer, while his heart is hot, and overtake him, because the way is long, and slay him; whereas he was not worthy of death, inasmuch as he hated him not in time past. Wherefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt separate three cities for thee. . . . But if any man hate his neighbour, and lie in wait for him, and rise up against him, and smite him mortally that he die, and fleeth into one of these cities. . ." (v. 11).

Premeditated. "Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him

thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee" (vv. 12-13).

It is somewhat different from our system, but the underlying principle is much the same. Oddly, for our discussion, the "avenger of blood" carries the title of "redeemer."

A hint is found in the heat of anger on the part of the avenger—a kinsman of the deceased. How is it possible for the "avenger of blood" to be the redeemer as well? Consider a little known facet of this legal system. There were no prisons. If your brother turned out to be a thief and got caught, in that system, there was no jail to send him to, so if he could make restitution for the theft, he was set free.

There was a formula for restitution depending on circumstances. "If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep" (Exodus 22:1). Laws like this in the Old Testament fall under the heading of Judgments. They can only be applied in principle in a different society. So what happened if your brother couldn't make restitution? He was put up on the auction block and sold

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*That the man of God may be proficient
and equipped for every good work.*

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as a slave. Money from the sale was restitution to the victim of his crime. You were not required to sell him for any set price except to one person. The redeemer.

To more fully understand where the redeemer comes into the picture and how the slave became just a commodity—worth whatever his owner could get for him—you will want to order this CD, *The Redeemer*. These ancient secular relationships became important religious relationships as the story of the Bible developed. Broaden your understanding of the role of Jesus Christ as the Redeemer from this most important *Born to Win* program. It's interesting, relevant, and important to you.

Calendar of Events

Feast of Tabernacles Oct. 1-8, 2012
CEM returns to the Emerald Coast Conference Center at Ft. Walton Beach, Florida this year. We are excited to return to what we feel is our "Feast home," and are busy planning a special Feast for you this year. Watch for announcements about events and activities that you have never seen at the Feast before, as well as some long-absent favorites. Sign up for the email newsletter on our website to receive the Feast Blast to keep you up to date. The website currently offers choices for discounted accommodations in the area, and more information is being posted as it becomes available. If you can help with this very special Feast, please email adm@borntowin.net or call 1-888-BIBLE-44 and talk with Paula Hughes. Many volunteers are needed.

You Are the Light

by Betty Russell

Now is your time to shine like the city on a hill. You are the light in your city. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). It will take a little time and effort from you, but there are simple ways to reach people in your community with the Gospel.

I have listed a few ideas that might be helpful in sharing the good news of the Kingdom of God with others in your community. Maybe something mentioned here will spark an idea of your own. Some of these ideas are very simple and obvious, others take a little planning.

Recycle CDs of the *Born to Win* program that you receive. Pass them along to a friend. Leave them in a doctor's or dentist's waiting room. Leave them in nursing homes, club houses, and laundromats. Take them to shelters for the homeless.

Pass along to a friend an article that encouraged you. Make a few copies, and keep them with you in the car, so you'll have them handy.

One of the best ways to share the message of Christ with others is by word of mouth. Children love to sing. I sing children's songs with my grandchildren when we are together. It is an excellent way to pass on Jesus' love for them at an early age.

You could read a YEA book to a

child. Or, go to a nursing home and offer to read a message of hope to a resident. I recommend the Book of John as a good place to start. Remember to make sure the person you are reading to doesn't mind if you read the Bible to them. Most will be delighted to have someone spend time with them.

We need to make people aware of the *Born to Win* broadcast. People won't listen if they don't know about the program. If the *Born to Win* program is broadcast in your area, write or type the information about the station and the time on a business card, or even a slip of paper, along with the web address for Christian Educational Ministries (www.borntowin.net). You can advertise your company, and provide life-altering information at the same time. I pass out my *Born to Win* cards as encouragement cards that I make myself, including a Scripture on one side. Most people accept them with a smile and thanks.

Remember, these are all ideas to help motivate us to share the message of Christ with others. Jesus himself gave us our instructions: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20). You can take charge of your town, your area, and help spread the Gospel to your friends and neighbors. You are the light in your neighborhood.