

Introduction:

- Snow White, Beauty and the Beast, Lord of the Rings are all movies that involved curses. Interesting thing about curses, is that there is always something bad attached to them. Who wants a curse? Who wants something in your house that is cursed?
- Ie. As a little boy, dentist, cavity filled, picked a gold skull ring with red eyes. Every time I put that ring on I got an intestinal bug.
- Frog from Guatemala. Bizarre things started happening in our home. We got rid of it.
- Curses are always associated with something bad. No one goes looking to get cursed. In fact we try to avoid them.
- Want to pick up a curse? Go to a palm reader, hang occult things in your house, tend a root of unforgiveness or root of bitterness, keep the tithe in your house. No one goes looking for a curse but many people are cursed because of ignorance. Let's get free from curses today!
- "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13, ESV) The curse of the law is the penalty that comes with breaking the law.
- Do you remember this Christmas song? Joy to the World the Lord is come! Third verse: "No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found."

I. The Power of the Curse**A. Overview of curses.**

1. Where do curses come from? From two sources:
 - a) God - by His words released curses to fall upon those who would choose disobedience, or choose not to live in relationship with God. See Dt 28.
 - b) Satan - because he is already cursed by God and is prince of the power of the air He curses believers and humanity daily with his words, action and snares.
2. What types of curses are there? There are six Hebrew words for curses. I am going to lump them into three categories:
 - a) There are generational curses. Ie. When Adam died spiritually all men died spiritually. That is a generational curse. Ie. There are specific sins you find generationally in families: Diabetes, alcoholism, heart disease, unwed pregnancies, addictions, glaucoma, rebellion, etc.
 - b) There are word curses: these are curses that are spoken out by the mouth that run contrary to the culture/kingdom of heaven.
 - (1) I can speak a word curse over myself. Ie. "I am so stupid. I cant walk this Christian walk. I can't get rid of my back ache. (So you are claiming it as yours???) I am broke.

- (2) Others can speak word curses over you. le. "You will never amount to anything. You are a loser. You will die before you are 20. You have what your auntie had before she died."
- (3) Witches and the likes, can speak curses over us.
- (4) Disobedience is a type of word curse. When you go against the ways of God you open the door for a curse. "*Honor your father and mother that you may live long.*" Exodus 20:12; Withholding the tithe. Malachi 3:9
- c) There are occult curses: These are curses spoken by witches and other occult organizations against people. Believers are often the target of their curses. It is the curse that we can fear least as long as we do not open the doors of disobedience.
 - (1) "*a curse that is causeless does not alight.*" (Proverbs 26:2, ESV)
 - (2) A demonic curse can't just land on you. It has to have a reason to land.
 - (3) Balaam, could not curse Israel until Israel brought Moabite women into the camp which was disobedience. Then the curse would land.
 - (4) Obedience caused the cursed to be reversed...the curse becomes a blessing!
 - (5) Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and that throws you right into the middle of a curse that God has spoken. le. Sons of Korah. Numbers 16:28; Miriam, Numbers 12:10-16
- B. What is a curse? A curse is the absence of the life (Zoe life) that God gives. FCC exists to bring freedom and life to people and glory to God. In other words, we live to bring the life of God/the blessing of God to every area of people's lives in order that they experience God and His abundant life. John 10:10 "*I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly.*" The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy.
 - 1. From Numbers 22:6. Balaam curses Israel. Curse, *arar*, to snare, bind. "*ārar means 'to bind (with a spell), hem in with obstacles, render powerless to resist.'*" Hamilton, V. P. (1999). [168 אָרַר](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 75). Moody Press.
 - 2. quabab - curse - *an utterance designed to undo its object.*
- C. Because humanity, starting with Adam, made bad/wrong choices we put ourselves under a curse...the curse of sin...later, the curse of the law.

II. The Power of the Cross

- A. Jesus the sinless Christ became a curse for us. "*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'—"* (Galatians 3:13, ESV)

1. Christ became a curse for us by taking our place on the tree. We should have been there on the cross but He took our place! Therefore, all curses end with Christ!
2. Love moved the heart of the Father to give us His Son as a gift of life. The Son chose to lay down His life for us and die in our place. He took the curse so we don't have to.
- B. What Jesus did for us in response to the Father's love for us:
 1. He became sin, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV)
 2. He was crucified for our sin. *"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."* (1 Peter 2:24, ESV)
 3. He was considered cursed because he was hanging on a tree. Galatians 3:13
 - a) Deuteronomy 21:22-23 – a criminal who was stoned was to be hung on a tree for all to see during the course of a day. He could not stay on the tree through the night.
 - b) Jesus became a curse, was crucified on a cross/tree, He satisfied the Father's justice.
 - c) He became the curse so that we do not have to be cursed!

III. The Power of the Christ

- A. It is so exciting and comforting to know that Christ redeemed us...from the curse of the law...the words we could not keep.
 1. A curse is a supernatural force that works to bring harm and destruction to us, and/or hinder us from receiving the blessings of God.
 2. But Christ has come that we would have life and have more abundantly! God's blessing is more powerful than any curse! Let us choose to live under the blessing of God!
- B. Redeem - ἀγοράζω - agorazo - Meaning "to buy,"
 1. *"for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."* (1 Corinthians 6:20, ESV)
 2. *"You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men."* (1 Corinthians 7:23, ESV)
 3. Since we were bought with a price we are free! Not just free but free to experience the life/blessings of God.
 4. Angels sing about this, our redemption. The Lamb has bought us for God with his own blood. *"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people*

for God from every tribe and language and people and nation," (Revelation 5:9, ESV)

- C. Redemption in the OT: *"Finally, there is the very common usage prominent in the Psalms and prophets that God is Israel's Redeemer who will stand up for his people and vindicate them."* Harris, R. L. (1999). [300 לַחַיָּי](#). In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 144). Moody Press.
- D. On the cross, God stands up for and vindicates His people...those who believe in Him.
- E. Through Christ's redemption I am freed from the curse:
1. From Sin and sins effect. Mt 9:5 Which is easier to say, "*Your sins be forgiven, or rise and walk.*" Paid in full by Christ!
 2. From sickness-
 - a) Luke 13:10-12 Woman with 18 years spirit of infirmity bent over.
 - b) Spirit of infirmity is result of the curse of sin,
 - c) Isaiah 53:3-6. Paid in full by Christ!
 3. When I forgive others – tormentors have no more right to my life! Matthew 18.

Conclusion:

- All curses end in Christ!
- *"No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found."*
- *"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."* (1 Peter 2:24-25, ESV)