



History's Secret to Our Joy

Do you ever wonder what God is up to? We are going to spend the next 8 weeks...

Listen! To the average student the study of history is a tedious process of memorizing dates, names, places, and events—and then promptly forgetting all of them.

Major philosophies of history—first three from local historian Corbin Williamson:

- The Great Man Theory of History
- The Social Theory of History
- The Comparative Theory of History
- Redemptive History

The Foundation of Redemptive History:

- The Fall
- The State
- Jesus Paid: Genesis 3:15 and Genesis 3:21
- Faith Required
- Invitation to trust Christ

The Outline of Redemptive History:

- **Old Testament people**-who they were, where they were, and who they became
- **New Testament people**-who they were, where they were, and who they became
- **Ancient people**-who they were before, where they were, and who they became
- **Modern people**-who they were before, where they were, and who they became
- **The “Kicker” is Acts 28: 31 and the words “openness” and “unhindered.”**

Core Truth: I am obedient, fulfilled, and really happy ... when I trust Christ for my forgiveness and then join God in His work to rescue lost and broken people.

- **Here is one of the central purposes of God:** to redeem lost and broken people and turn them into fully functioning followers of Christ for His own glory.

Applications—here is how we join God in one of the main things that He is up to:

#1 Trust Christ

#2 Join God in the adventure of redemptive history-get in the middle of the story

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

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- **Today:** Do you buy the theory of “redemptive history?” Does it make sense? Do you think Dave proved it as the best philosophy for interpreting history? Why or why not?
- **Monday:** Where do you stand in the flow of redemptive history—in the story or still outside the story? If you are in, please reflect on the time when you trusted Christ and all the circumstances that God orchestrated to bring you in. If you are not yet in, what is keeping you from trusting Christ right now?
- **Tuesday:** Which one of the Old Testament people in the story of God’s redemptive history did you most resonate with and why?
- **Wednesday:** Which one of the New Testament people in the story of God’s redemptive history did you most resonate with and why?
- **Thursday:** Which one of the ancient people in the story of God’s redemptive history did you most resonate with and why?
- **Friday:** Which one of the modern people in the story of God’s redemptive history did you most resonate with and why?
- **Saturday:** What do you think about the ending of the Book of Acts—Acts 28:31—and the words “openness” and “unhindered?” What does it mean for you? What does it mean in terms of God’s desire for you to be in the middle of the redemptive story? What does it mean in terms of God’s willingness to help you in that work? What does it mean for you in terms of personal joy and meaning and excitement?
- **Bonus Question:** In what ways can you personally visualize a “gallery of redemptive history in your life” that is similar to the history of the great ball teams as documented in their storied locker rooms? What are the photos and trophies in your life that document the redemptive work of God in your life and in the lives of the people around you?

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.