

## The Need for Redemption in Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*.

The paper explores the gradual development of the need for redemption, as a prominent thematic concern, in O'Connor's *Wise Blood*. It argues that Hazel Motes finds that the need for redemption is inescapable, and that it can only be achieved through suffering, hardship and self-torture after he has committed his crime; a crime that heralds his repentance and prolonged penance; resulting eventually in his self-blinding. Motes inflicts himself with blindness for not seeing when he had eyes to see. In his blindness, he seeks reconciliation with God. What is noticed about Hazel is that he has dedicated himself to spiritual cleansing accentuated through self-inflicted torture. In the last part of the novel, O'Connor suggests that Hazel can put an end to his psychological torture personified in evil and wrongdoings via acknowledging the need for redemption and by schooling himself upon practicing long suffering.