

# THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Volume 66, Number 10

Editor ~ Wade Stanley

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## Redemption -- What Price?

Louis Garbi

*For you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Corinthians 6:20).*

Being purchased stresses things the Lord wants us to remember. We belong to God. Connected to this is how precious we are to Him. We are dear to Him. Because of sin, a price had to be paid—the price of redemption. The price was commensurate with the value of who we are and what we can become.

God foreshadowed this in several different ways.

The firstborn of man and beast in Israel were offered to God. Those of the male babies were redeemed with money.

*So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, "What is this?" that you shall say to him, "By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem" (Exodus 13:11-15).*

*And those redeemed of the devoted things you shall redeem when one month old, according to your valuation, for five shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs (Numbers 18:16).*

Though five shekels seems strange for the valuation of a man, it was sufficient for remembrance. It was a kind of Passover observance with every firstborn male. Another example of redemption concerned the selling and restoration of property.

*If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession. But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee, and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall*

*return to his possession (Leviticus 25:25-28).*

These examples demonstrate a price paid for redemption. As a result, property was restored to the rightful owner, and the firstborn males of God's people were able to live.

Our original condition was one of innocence, free from sin. We see this in the beauty of an infant's gaze and the sweetness of children. It is testified by Jesus, who used the example of childhood innocence: "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). This speaks of childhood's innate value, prized by God. Though born in innocence, we do not have the power to retain it. We grow to recognize the difference between good and bad behavior. We see the value of good behavior and the trouble of bad behavior. However, we do not have the strength to keep ourselves from evil. We become sullied through sin. We become like the slaves of Egypt, property sold to someone outside the family. In such a condition, our potential is the only thing left of value. And God does value the potential of all. What is the price for redemption?

*"He shall see the labor of His soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities" (Isaiah 53:11).* "The labor of His soul," refers to the suffering of Jesus. He was put to torment and death bearing our iniquities. That was the price. In what way was God satisfied?

- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).
- "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).
- "The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

These simple statements tell us what would satisfy God. He has the desire and love that all should be saved. How did the death of Jesus accomplish this? God did not demand blood in the way of pagan cruelty, shedding blood for lust. He required a different way. What would one think of a mother who died to protect her baby? Most people would instantly recognize love in such a thing. So was God's love for us and so much more. Jesus gave His life, bearing our iniquities, all the while

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cherishing what we might become: *"the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Hebrews 12:2). What our lives would become was the joy set before Jesus.

Sometimes, we hear that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. I think what is meant is this: He did for us what we could not do for ourselves. The penalty for sin is the lake of fire. There is no redemption there. Jesus is not in the lake of fire, suffering for our sins. Rather, He did what was needed for us to be forgiven. That was the payment. The scriptures use the word "ransom." It speaks of Jesus, *"who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time"* (1 Timothy 2:6). Ransom serves as a metaphor for what was needed. The means for salvation was needed.

Again, what was needed? Someone greater than us (our Creator) who could see our potential. Someone to become one of us, to know the burdens of life in the flesh. Someone to love us. Someone to bear our guilty actions without turning away, even to die for us. Someone to conquer death as one of us. Someone who could truly be a Mediator and Advocate between us and God. Things such as these satisfy the requirements for us to be purchased. What is needed from us? God calls us to have faith that such a thing has happened and to yield. In this is found our love for Him.

The opening quotation to this article contains an admonition, *"glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."* Belonging to another can be readily understood in family life. Husband and wife belong to each other. Their children belong to them. Through the love of their parents, children sense that quality of belonging and feel secure. Because of Jesus, we belong to God – an unceasing belonging that sustains us even through the death of the body. What rich compulsion to do what is right! What resolve to follow Jesus! The admonition is there because we haven't reached the finish line.

*And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear, knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:17-19).*

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## The Relatability of the Bible

*Michael Allen*

One of the things that makes the Bible so real to us is the relatability of the stories it gives us. On some level, each of us will no doubt have very similar issues as those that we read about in these stories.

What got me started down this path was considering the story of Job. Many times, we use him as an example of perseverance, but I believe that he can also be used as a microcosm of how we address the problems of this life. We will all have trials at some point in our lives that may cause us to question our faith. Maybe not to the degree he faced, but things that are horrible and thoroughly test us nonetheless.

When that happens, what are we going to do? What will be our reaction as it relates to God and our spiritual lives? Are we going to blame God and turn our backs on Him? Are we going to curse God and spiritually die? Will we use our misfortune to continually pontificate on the injustice of our dilemma? Or

will we use it as an opportunity to look to God for comfort and look to His word for guidance, to help see us through to the other side?

And Job is just one example that we could look at. Could we look to the story of Solomon about issues in dealing with success? Or a study of Moses on how to deal with frustration? Or a study of Paul on how to deal with major life changes? Or a study of Joseph on how to deal with times when we feel abandoned? Or David on how to overcome when you do some horrible, sinful things. And the list could go on and on.

No doubt, our stories will never completely parallel the events that these people found themselves in. But the struggles of their lives in many ways are no different than the struggles that we continually find ourselves in as we do the best that we can to live a godly life.

From the Bible, we learn that being a follower of God doesn't mean you get a free pass from the problems of this life. It doesn't mean that all your diseases will be healed or that you will never be faced with difficult times or decisions. It doesn't mean your financial state will always come up great. And the list of possibilities goes on and on, just as the examples of Biblical stories go on and on for us to learn from.

But what it does promise us is that the problems that we have will not follow us once we leave this life. God has promised a place for those who will obey Him that doesn't include the problems of this life. And if we can remain faithful till the end, we know that there is a place prepared for us that will be worth the perseverance needed to survive today.

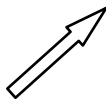
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*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope (Romans 15:4).*

## Glory to God!

The brethren in **Eldon, MO** rejoiced when **Jonathan Stemmler** was baptized for the remission of his sins on August 28.

The brethren of the **Chapel Glen Church of Christ, Indianapolis, IN** rejoiced when **Tessa Owens** was buried with Christ on September 4.



*Please check your expiration date!*

## *Blessed Are the Dead*

Mary Lea Proudfit, 81, of Indianola, IA, passed away on August 27, 2024. She was born to her parents, **Edward Joe** and **Eva Lorene Bedell Baxter**, on December 10, 1942, in Independence, MO. She was a devoted wife to the love of her life, **Duane Loren Proudfit**, for over 62 years after meeting him at a church Bible study in Des Moines, IA, in the spring of 1960. She confessed her belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and was immersed in baptism at the age of 12. She lived the remainder of her life as a faithful servant of her Lord and was a member of the **Church of Christ at Martensdale, IA** for over 62 years. Her purpose in life was to instill this faith in her children, grandchildren, and her “church children and grandchildren.” Mary left a lasting impression of compassion and kindness and is fondly remembered by the many people she has touched over her years. She is survived by her husband Duane; children **Tammy (Brian) Schreck**, **Christy (Dave) Henderson**, and **Steven (Cerine) Proudfit**; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren, with a ninth soon to arrive, Lord willing.

## *Special Meetings*

The third annual **Northern Missouri Fall Campout** is scheduled for October 4-6 in Unionville, MO. The churches in **Martinstown** and **Unionville** have invited **Doug Twaddell** and **Tad Morris** to teach, and **Michael Eldridge** to lead a gospel singing. The theme, topics, schedule, and accommodations can all be found by following the QR code to the right.



The **Church of Christ in Nixa, MO** looks forward to their annual fall meeting scheduled for October 19-20. The flyer for the meeting which includes the schedule for the weekend, topics, and speakers can be found using the QR code to the left.

Please encourage our young people to attend the winter rallies held in the Kansas City area. The flyer for the annual Youth Rally can be found at the QR link to the right. The College Rally hosted by the Lone Jack Church of Christ will have a flyer available in future.



## **2024 Meetings**

October 4-6.....Fall Campout, Unionville, MO  
October 19-20.....Nixa, MO  
December 26-28....Youth Rally, Gregory Blvd. Raytown, MO  
December 26-28.....College Rally, Lone Jack, MO

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