

Wednesday Word, January 4, 2017: Secured for the New Year and Beyond!

Revelation 5:9: *“And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood ...”*

The word ‘redeem’ means ‘to purchase for ownership’, or ‘to pay a ransom.’ It stands to reason then that, if we are bought by the precious blood of Christ, neither the Devil nor anyone else can buy us back! We are bought with a price! We belong to Christ forever! We cannot be lost! If we can be lost, then there is a flaw in the work of Calvary. If we perish, there is something flawed with His payment. Admittedly, there are all manner of flaws in us, but there are no flaws in our substitute and His ransom. Because of the power of the blood to redeem, we can never be lost! We are safe and secure.

We are saved because of one man and His accomplishments. There is no failing in this Second man, the Last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45; 47). He, because of His work on Earth 2000 years ago, is now, at this moment, in Heaven as our representative. Because of Him, there is now no legal condemnation for us. We are in Christ and, in Him, we have a perfect standing before the Father.

So here’s Good News for the New Year. It comes in two short questions with answers.

“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifies.”

“Who is He that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us” (Romans 8:33).

The only one who can condemn us won’t condemn us for He has died for us. He has powerfully bought and mercifully paid for us with His own precious blood.

Augustus Toplady, the author of Rock of Ages, knew something of this Grace about which we speak. On New Year’s Eve, December 31, 1767, he wrote in his diary; “Upon a review of the past year, I desire to confess, that my unfruitfulness has been exceeding great; my sins still greater, and God’s mercies greater than both.”

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?..... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-39).

Notice how nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ. Away then with this teaching that Christ can lose that which He dearly purchased with His own blood.

This New Year may we never forget that we are not saved because of our love for Him but because of His love for us. We are not secured by our grip on Him but by His grip on us.

One old time preacher said, "Salvation was like Noah inviting a pagan in his day to place his trust in God's Word and come into the Ark. Some, however, view salvation as Noah offering to put a peg on the outside of the Ark and saying "If you just hang on through the storm, you'll be saved."

Since repetition is the price of learning, let's then say it again: Salvation is not dependent on our holding on to God, but on our being securely held by and in Christ."

And that's the Gospel Truth!