

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Purchase versus Provision

In my previous writing, I attempted to comment on the difference between a mere “provision” of the atonement and the actual “application” of appeasing finished work.

“For ye are BOUGHT with a price (purchased): Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corin.6:20). “Ye are bought (purchased) with a price; be not ye the servants of men” (I Corin.7:23).

We that are blessed by sovereign grace to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ by the glorious work of regeneration have been redeemed (to liberate by payment) to God by the BLOOD out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Rev. 5:9).

The advocates of “temporal salvation”, meaning those that would endorse the ability to lose one’s salvation by disobedient acts of sin, have a very dim view of the “completeness” of the finish work and the buying power of the Almighty. The teaching that one can lose their salvation has arisen from the dregs of hell itself. This lie of satanic origin has been the supposed “motivation” means to move the so called carnal Christian off their loins...just as the legalist use the Old covenant laws and commandments to hold “as a carrot in front of men as an incentive to Biblical obedience”.

In a close examination of the redeeming purchase work of our sovereign Master, God has called his people with a Holy calling to be peculiar people zealous of good works. They are CAUSED to PERFORM the works of a new creature because they are new creatures by the means of the new birth. God has written his Holy laws upon the hearts and minds of his people, as was promised by the Prophet of old, and has been fulfilled in this dispensation of the New Covenant of grace (Hebrews 8:10). We as the Israel of God walk in newness of life by the power of Christ in us. What God has bought is not to be cast to the dung hill as trash because of the creatures’ lack of performance. “For he which has BEGUN that good work in you SHALL PERFORM it until the day of Christ.” That’s a promise. Beloved of God, I am banking on God to fulfill what he

promised because he did not BUY useless vessels, he purchased vessels that contain his Spirit as the treasure (II Corin.4:7).

Are these bought and paid for vessels of grace sinless in their natural walk in this mortal realm, absolutely not, because we are still captive in a body that has the curse of sin upon it and death shall be its final resolve. With this flesh, the beloved Apostle penned, "I am carnal sold under sin, for I know that in ME dwelleth NO GOOD thing; for to will (to desire to please God) is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not (within himself)" (Rom.7:18). "I thank God THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the FLESH the law of sin" (Rom.7:25).

Paul was making it quite clear that the battle continues, and the FLESH still has its sinful effect upon our daily walk in this time world, yet sin DOES NOT dominate us as it once did prior to our New Birth and God's operation of regeneration upon the heart, mind and soul of his elect heirs of grace. We walk to a NEW drum beat, we HEAR the voice of the good Shepherd that was not audible before, we see by the gift of faith the love, mercy and persevering grace that our God bestows upon us to PERFORM his good pleasure.

Beloved of God, even sin in its definition of men can be the means that God shall use to conform us into the image of his dear Son in this pilgrim way. Shall not ALL be partakers of God's chastisement in time? Absolutely, per the scriptures (Heb 12:8-11). Which indicates that God in his divine infinite purpose has determined that disobedience in time shall be used to SANCTIFY and cause the FRUIT of HOLINESS TO BE MANIFEST.

Has God, the Almighty creator of ALL things bought his people for nothing? Oh, to think that HE the very deity himself took upon the flesh of a man, tempted in EVERY way, yet without sin, and then taking upon himself OUR sin, in OUR behalf as the redemptive antidote for sins curse upon we that make up the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is beyond what my finite mind can comprehend. Beloved we have been BOUGHT, RANSOMED, and REDEEMED as God's treasure in earthen vessels. Nothing can separate that precious union which God has decreed. For if we had been bought and God lose his purchase, he could not be sovereign...but limited in his deity and power. Yet Oh, the promise that our God rules and reigns in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and NONE can stay his hand, or say unto him, WHAT DOEST THOU? (Daniel 4:35) OUR GOD REIGNS! For what he has bought, he KEEPS.

Things to Ponder.

July 28, 2005