

Bought With A Price

1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org



FOCAL Read Responsively 1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

A dear friend told me a cute little poem I'd like you to hear. It goes like this:

**A mouse gnawed on the pantry door,
He gnawed, I guess, for a month or more.
When he got in the pantry, he found not a bit,
Life's tedious, isn't it?**

I thought that was cute - but also so appropriate. Many people spend their whole lives working for what are called "riches" - gold, silver, precious stones, or paper money. Once they get these riches they buy things that rust, rot, are consumed, or wear out. Like that little mouse they gnaw and gnaw, expecting a payoff that will bring great satisfaction. In the end they find out - as all find out - that riches for riches sake will not satisfy. We as people need more than *things* to be happy. Jesus illustrated this in the parable of the "rich fool":

Luke 12:16-19 ... The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: {17} And he thought within himself, saying, **What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? {18} And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. {19} And I will say to my soul, Soul,**

thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

This man had plenty of goods. God had richly blessed him. So what did he do with his riches? He reinvested them. Rather than thank God for what he had, and rather than donate a portion of that which he had to the needy, the rich man **built greater barns to hoard his goods**. He didn't even give himself time to rest as he went about his business. You see, this man was in bondage. He was in bondage *to himself*, for he was never satisfied. He was *in bondage to the spirit of this world*. Though richly blessed of God he wanted, perhaps, to "keep up with the Jones' ". This man's crops grew because the Lord **"gave him rain in due season, and the land yielded her increase, and the trees of the field yielded her fruit"** (Leviticus 26:4). God extended every benefit of His love toward this man, and - like the foolish mouse - he continued gnawing. At the end of his life he found an empty pantry. The Lord took his soul from him, others enjoyed the riches he had no time to appreciate.

The Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthian believers because they had begun to wander away from God. Twice the Apostle told them **"you are bought with a price"**. You might have - in the past - been a rich fool, enslaved to your greed, but you are no longer that way. On the day that you met Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you said "yes" to His invitation. As **purchased possessions** you no longer belong to the **world** - you belong to God. Let the world chase satisfaction, greedily earning money to buy bigger barns. You are a different kind of people. **You should be an authentic kind of**

people. If you belong to God, if you are **bought with a price**, then

Matthew 6:20-21 ... lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: {21} For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The world watches the Christian. Are you living your lives as if you belong to God? If not, you are a poor advertisement for your Master. Are you constantly worried? Why should you be consumed with worry if you belong to God? Knowing that you are **bought with a price by God** should drive away your worries. You are precious to God, dear Christian, for He paid much for you. **God so loved the world that He gave us His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)**. If you were not of great value then God would not have paid so much for you. You are valuable, dear friend. Quit seeking your value in the ways of this world. Find your value in Jesus Christ. Believe on Him. You are bought with a price. The Blood of Jesus Christ was shed for you.

1. You Are Redeemed From Eternal Punishment

FOCAL 1 Corinthians 6:20 For **ye are bought with a price** ...

ILLUSTRATE A rich man - diagnosed with inoperable cancer - was asked by his friend "do you have any

faith?". The rich man replied "I try to stay away from all faiths. It seems like they all want something from me". His friend replied, "But what if you're wrong? What if there is a God?" The rich man replied, "If I'm wrong, I win".

That's how the world thinks about eternity and God. They believe that - IF there is a God - THEN He's have to be too good to send anyone away from Heaven. They think "If I'm wrong, I win". Yet that's not what the Bible says. The Bible teaches

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

We are all wrong. We are all quite naturally apart from God. The Psalmist wrote:

Psalms 14:1-3 ... The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. {2} The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. {3} They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

God looked down from Heaven and found none who were right with Him. None were pure - none holy. If God, looking from Heaven, sees no good in us, then do you really believe that we will *automatically enter Heaven* upon our deaths? What did Jesus teach and preach? What did Jesus say to the *rich men and the*

religious men who denied Him? He said:

Matthew 23:27-33 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every impurity. {28} In the same way, on the outside you seem righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. {29} "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, {30} and you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we wouldn't have taken part with them in shedding the prophets' blood.' {31} You therefore testify against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. {32} Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' sins! {33} "Snakes! Brood of vipers! How can you escape being condemned to hell?"^{HCSB}

Jesus Christ taught that Hell was a literal place that people were sent to when Heaven rejected them. There is no *default to Heaven*. If you live your lives selfishly and apart from God Jesus warned of a place of **unquenchable fire: where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched"** (Mark 9:43, 46, and 48). Jesus told His listeners:

Luke 12:4-5 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. {5} But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he

hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

to fear God, Who has the power to both kill - then to cast into Hell. To Jesus Christ Hell was real, a place of torment where selfish people went. In His sermon on Lazarus and the Rich Man we see the unnamed but selfish rich man crying out to Abraham:

Luke 16:23-24 And in hell {the rich man} lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. {24} And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

The man is in torment - **he is tormented in those flames.** Does he ever find relief? According to Jesus Christ, no, he doesn't. The man is also tormented by the knowledge that he could have been with Lazarus in the place of Paradise. He could have made a choice for God. But He didn't.

Dear Christian, as you partake of the Lord's Table, as your **drink of His cup**, remember that **you are bought with a price.** Why are you freed from hell whereas others are not? Because you believed on Jesus Christ.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Why are the unbelieving dead going to hell? **Because they believeth not the Son.** They were told of Jesus hanging on yonder tree. They sat under the preaching of the Gospel - the Good News of Grace - and heard that:

Romans 9:33 ... whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

They heard:

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

They knew that they did not keep God's Law perfectly. They knew that they did not meet God's standards, but they made excuses and ignored the plea of the Gospel. God told them:

Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved ...

and they laughed. They heard

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

and they mocked. They saw Jesus on Calvary as darkness descended. They saw the clouds of God's Judgment gather round about Him, and heard Him cry out **Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? - My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?** and ignored what He did.

Dear Christian, **you are bought with a price.** You are

no longer **Children of Wrath**, but are **Children of the Most High** because of Jesus. You have been purchased from hellfire and eternal death because of Jesus. As you partake of the Cup and the Bread, do not do so lightly. Though they are but material things - small things - they represent your **purchase price**. **You are bought with a price.**

2. You Are Redeemed From Bondage To The World

FOCAL 1 Corinthians 7:23 **Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.**

ILLUSTRATE There was a time when we all - every person in this place - were **children of wrath**. The Bible says that we were "**by nature children of wrath**" (Ephesians 2:3). But God, because of His great love, "**made us (that is, we who are Christians) alive together with Jesus Christ. By GRACE are you saved**" (Ephesians 2:5). When we were unsaved but loved of God we *hated God*. I had a dear friend tell me that - just the other day - he witnessed to a lost person. Love drove my friend to tell this lost man of the love of God for him. Yet as he began to tell of Christ this lost person began to curse him and revile him in a most shocking manner. I myself have experienced the same thing. There is one young man and woman, both lost and undone, who came to me for marriage counseling. In the course of the counseling I asked both if they were in the arms of Christ. The young man admitted that he was lost. When I witnessed to him, offering Jesus as the solution of God unto eternal life this young man refused Him - and reviled me. To this day the young man will not speak

to me, so embittered he is to the truth of the Gospel.

When fashions go wrong it should be the Christian's fashion to go against the fashion! A faith that can live in hell cannot be from Heaven!

Dear friends, if you have not given your lives to Christ then it is certain that you are yet enslaved to the world. **A faith that can live in hell, divorced from the love of God, cannot save anyone!** When you were saved by faith in Christ the Bible tells us that God the Holy Spirit came to live inside of you. **Be not the servants of men.** Do not chase after every whim of this world, for the world is in the grip of Satan. You, dear Christian, **were bought with a price. You now belong to God, not to yourself nor even to the spirit of this world.**

The Apostle John made this very clear when he wrote under the inspiration of God:

1 John 3:5 And ye know that {God the Son} was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Jesus Christ came to earth from Heaven with the expressed purpose of **taking away our sins**. Jesus had no sin in Him, but took our sins upon Himself. He bore our load, bore our iniquities.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For {God the Father} hath made {God the Son} to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Your sins were poured out on Him and judged. But God didn't stop with this. Once the *penalty* for our sin was removed by Christ, God the Holy Spirit took up *position* in us.

God is now in the believer, enabling us, redeeming us from temporal bondage. The Apostle John went on to say:

1 John 3:6-8 **Whosoever abideth in {Jesus} sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. {7} Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. {8} He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

God is in you, freeing you from sin. As Christians if you **abide in Christ you will not sin**. If you keep your lives close in fellowship with Him **sin will not have dominion over you, for you are not under the Law but are under Grace (Romans 6:14)**. Jesus Christ came to **destroy the works of the devil**. When a person says "I'm a Christian, but I just can't help" John replies from eternity "**He that committeth sin is of the devil**". If you can lightly tread in the quicksand of sin, dear friend, you need to be saved. "**He that doeth righteousness is righteous**". When a Christian sins he quickly repents of it for Christ's sake, and confesses his failure to his Heavenly Father. Dear Christian, you are

saved from wallowing in death while in this life.

Though you should love your neighbor, you do not belong to your neighbor - you belong to God. **You are bought with a price - and God owns you**. There's an old saying:

"Don't waste your time climbing some man's totem pole, cause in the end you'll always fall".

That's true. We as Christians do not allow peer pressure to direct us. **We are not to live our lives as unto men, but we are to live our lives as unto God**. What does God's Word say? We who are Christians are bought with a price. We do not belong to anyone but God. We live our lives to please God.

When you come to the Lord's Table today you will not be given a choice of beverage. The deacons will come by and, like airline stewards, ask "Coffee, Tea, or Milk?". We who are Christian are all purchased by the same Blood of Christ, therefore we drink of the same Cup.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 **The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? {17} For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.**

We all serve the same Lord. We are redeemed from slavishness to sin. Before God purchased you with His

Blood sin ruled your lives. Now that you are purchased possessions the Scripture rightly says:

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Oh, Blessed Believer, God is no longer angry with you! Every trial, every tribulation, every suffering that comes your way comes with the intent of making you a better Son of God. Every bruising that God allows is there to cause you to draw closer to your Savior. **King David resting in the palace found himself looking - then acting - lustfully with another man's wife.** Yet the Shepherd David, being hounded of King Saul, found himself singing in a cave:

Psalms 57:1-3 ... Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. {2} I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. {3} He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

You were **bought with a price**. God did a great work for you at Calvary - will He abandon you now? No, never! If you called upon Him He abides in you. This is the teaching of the Lord's Table, reenacted each time you drink the Cup and eat the Bread. God is in you!

3. You Who Are Redeemed Now Belong To Jesus

FOCAL 1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

You were bought with a price. What price was paid for you? **Blood.** What type of Blood? **It was the Blood of the Son of God.** God shed His Blood for you. He made payment for you. On the day that you were saved the Lord offered to pay for you, and you willingly accepted that payment. You no longer belong to yourself. You belong to God.

ILLUSTRATE When I was young my parents owned a small trailer on the coast of North Carolina. Anytime a storm was coming we all went about securely tying up our boats. Some people, foolishly, left their boats unattended. The incoming storm would pull the boat from the dock, and that boat, a derelict, moved at the whim of every wave and every wind. A boat that was not owned by someone would often find itself destroyed on the rocks and shallows. There were times we would see just the tip of the bow of a boat - once proud - now drowned in the deeps of the ocean.

You are redeemed, dear believer, and belong to God. **You are bought with a price**, and that price was Blood. This was not Blood that was gently removed while the Patient was under anesthesia.

Look at Him kneeling in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prays three times, "**Father, if Thou be willing, remove this Cup from Me: nevertheless not My will,**

but Thine be done" (Luke 22:42). The Lord is in agony. Though the whips have not yet begun to eat on His flesh He knows what is coming. He is, after all, Almighty God.

The first Blood shed was not drawn by nails nor whip, but was let by Jesus Himself as He prayed in Gethsemane.

As Christ Jesus prays the Scripture tells us that the first Blood let was by our Lord Himself. **His sweat, like great drops of Blood, fall to the ground (Luke 22:44).** Do His disciples pray with Him? No, they sleep. Like us eleven disciples ignore the Lord's need while the twelfth, **Judas Iscariot**, works diligently to betray Him. No man could help Jesus, no man *would* help Jesus, so **God sent an angel from Heaven to strengthen Him (Luke 22:43).** angel could help now, but not later. Watch Him as He stands before Herod and Pilate. Watch as the soldiers beat Him with their fists. See with the eye of faith as Christ is hoisted by ropes until His skin is pulled tight. See the cruel soldiers tear His flesh with their whips, plowing deep furrows in His skin with broken pottery and bones. A crown of thorns is shoved on His head and Blood, like a veil, runs from His face to join that on His Body. His hands and feet are nailed to coarse and cruel wood, then He - naked and bleed - is raised high in His humiliation.

You, dear Christian, are **purchased with a price.** Glorify God. **Glorify God in your Body.** Do not chase after sins of the flesh. How horrible that someone who professes to

be a Christian would lightly say "I was born this way - I cannot help it", seeking to justify their sexual sin.

Glorify God in your Body, and in your Spirit. All of you belongs to God. You have no right to waste what Christ has **bought with a price.** As the beloved **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

" Our bodies used to work hard enough for the devil; now they belong to God we will make them work for him. Your legs used to carry you to the theater; be not too lazy to come out on a Thursday night to the house of God. Your eyes have been often open upon iniquity, keep them open during the sermon: do not drop asleep! Your ears have been sharp enough to catch the word of a lascivious song let them be quick to observe the word of God. Those hands have often squandered your earnings in sinfulness, let them give freely to the cause of Christ. Your body was a willing horse when it was in the service of the devil, let it not be a sluggish hack now that it draws the chariot of Christ. Make the tongue speak his praises, make the mouth sing of his glory, make the whole man bow in willing subservience to the will of him who bought it."¹

Dear believer, you are precious to God! How do I know this? Because of the price paid for you. He broke the yoke of bondage to hell, sin, and self from your neck, and left His Bloody fingerprints all over you.

¹ from his sermon *Bought With A Price*, number 1004, August 6, 1871

Think of your value. The text doesn't say, "**You are not your own, for God created you**". God created the angels, both fallen and unfallen. He created the animals, and created rebellious man - and yet none of these are saved. The text doesn't say "**You are not your own, for God preserves you**". Again, this is true even of those who reject the Gospel message. No, our text says "**You are not your own, for you are bought with a price**". Christ laid His pierced hand on you and said "You are mine". He took you out of Satan's grasp, and hold you firmly in His. How precious you are, dear Christian, for how precious was your Purchase Price! This precious Blood was shed for You, so that you know You are Precious.

ILLUSTRATE If you are born again by faith in Christ you are **not your own - you are bought with a price**. If you were a lump of clay owned by a Master Potter you would be worth more than the lump of clay lying by the river. If you were a good piece of mahogany owned by a Master Carpenter you would be much more valuable than a piece of mahogany cast upon the waters as driftwood. **You are not your own, and are blessed, for you are of more value in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ**. Those who are not Christ's own may take of this Blessed Table of Communion, but to them it means nothing. They may sing with us but, if you yet belong to yourself, there is no intrinsic value in it. Those who belong to Christ, **purchased with His precious Blood**, will one day enjoy Heaven alongside their Savior. But those who do not know Christ as Savior and Lord will find themselves cast away. Only those who belong to Jesus can enter God's Heaven! He will say to the

unbeliever:

Matthew 25:41 ... Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Blessed be the Name of God that this is not true of you, dear Hearer. But if it is, come to Him today. Surrender your life unto God. Lay down your weapons of skepticism and mockery, lay down your shield of selfishness, and repent, believing that Jesus Christ gave Himself for you, too. **For whosoever calls upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved! (Romans 10:13)**.

May God the Blessed Spirit touch your hearts with His Word.

FOCAL Read Responsively 1 Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

(Luke 12:16-19; Leviticus 26:4; Matthew 6:20-21)

1. You Are Redeemed From Eternal Punishment

1 Corinthians 6:20; Romans 3:23; Psalms 14:1-3; Matthew 23:27-33; Mark 9:43, 46, 48; Luke 12:4-5; Luke 16:23-24; John 3:36; Romans 9:33; James 2:10; Isaiah 45:22; Romans 10:13

2. You Are Redeemed From Bondage To The World

1 Corinthians 7:23; Ephesians 2:3; Ephesians 2:5; 1 John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:6-8; Romans 6:14; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 6:14; Psalms 57:1-3

3. You Who Are Redeemed Now Belong To Jesus

1 Corinthians 6:20; Luke 22:42; Luke 22:44; Luke 22:43; Matthew 25:41; Romans 10:13

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