

## Purchased by the blood

Good morning everyone my text this morning are 2 scriptures which both communicate a valuable truth for us as Christians.

Acts 20:28

*“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which **he purchased with his own blood**”*

1 Corinthians 6 19-20

*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were **bought at a price**. Therefore honour God with your bodies”*

Edwin spoke on a single subject last week ‘restoration’ I want to look at this term and glorious truth used in our readings this morning ‘we are purchased with his own blood’ or ‘we are bought at a price’

I must admit when I read these verses they caught my attention and intrigued me. I thought, what does it actually mean to be purchased?

When you think of the word purchase what does it make you think of?

I noticed when I do my weekly shop/ purchase at Morrison’s that things have gone up significantly. Our purchasing power is diminishing considerably these days with rising inflation and the cost of living crisis.

In fact I did a bit of research and back in 1970 (a time we can all remember) with just one pound (£1) shopping money in your purse or wallet these are all the items you could get in your shopping trolley;

A small white loaf, a pint of milk, Tin of Tomatoes, ¼ lb of tea, Can of Heinz beans  
Carton of Kerry gold cream, Bag of rice, Can of Shandy, Cadburys fruit and nut bar  
And a newspaper all for £1 or 20 shillings and still get tup pence change!

By the way a gallon of petrol was 6s 8d! That’s 3 gallons for a pound (today £6-7 per gallon)

The truth is; it’s nothing new, the economies of our world fluctuate continually.

However unlike inflation; **the purchasing power of Christ blood never diminishes.**

Our scripture’s says ‘purchased by his own blood’ what does that mean? I want to look at 3 things this morning.

**Firstly let’s look at the blood;** we could say the blood is the ‘currency’ in this ‘transaction’

The blood of Christ never loses its value, it is much more valuable than any commodity known to man - Gold is perhaps the most valuable currency there is today, but any amount of gold falls into total insignificance compared to the blood of Christ. In fact you cannot put a value on His blood.

It is completely unique 'shed once for all' through the sacrifice of Jesus, but it still has the power today as the day it was shed on the cross 2000 years ago. It has the power to redeem men and women's lives and it's the only 'substance' or 'material' that can do it. Nothing else gets anywhere close.

Nothing else can restore that relationship between man & God. Nothing else cleanses us from all sin. (1John 1:7)

When we go back to the Old Testament we see the blood sacrifice of bulls and goats was not enough, the blood of animals did not have the 'purchasing power' to put man right with God. Only the precious blood of Christ has the power to do this.

The blood of animals was just a covering for man's guilt but it could not remove the guilt of sin, however the blood of Christ completely removes this guilt and wipes the slate clean.

So firstly when we were 'purchased by His blood' it was done with the most valuable and priceless thing in all the universe.

### **Secondly what did this purchasing power of the blood do? - It purchased us**

Revelation 5:9

*"Worthy are You to take the scroll and open its seals, because You were slain, and by Your blood You purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation"*

What does that mean? When we buy something we expect to own it, we possess it no longer, it belongs to another. We belong to God, we were 'brought at a price' and when it says we are purchased by his blood it means, He owns us, and we are His possession.

1 Peter 2:9-10

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **God's special possession**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light"*

I think this is a critical truth. If we could only grasp it would change our lives. We are 'His possession' brought at a price and the Bible tells us because of that we become '**slaves of God**'

However in the New Testament the term used for 'slave' is interpreted 'servant' in our Bibles, here's 3 examples;-

Acts 2:18

*"Even on my (slaves) servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy"*

Revelation 1; 1

*"The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his (slaves) servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John"*

2 timothy 2; 24

*And the Lord's (slaves) servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful"*

There is literally multiple of instances where this word (Doulos in the greek) 'slave' is incorrectly translated 'servant' and by doing so it loses its real value and meaning.

There is a key difference between a slave and a servant. A servant serves someone but a slave is owned by someone. We serve God because we are owned by Him.

One of the main reasons they changed the word slave in our NT to servant is because the word slave conjures up too many negative connotations, the term slave is a touchy subject, especially today when they are destroying statues of people who had even the briefest connection with the slave trade from the past.

Tell me what do you think of when we use the word slave?

Is it not the case? That word slavery is almost instantly associated with black Africans who were brought over against their will, forced into hard and cruel labour, free of charge, and treated as sub-human in many regards.

Or we may of have heard of 'modern slavery' where scores of people are living in one house or even one room, paid a pittance for working horrendously long hours.

In our world the word slavery is associated with abuse, exploitation, cruelty and forced labour.

But in New Testament times it was quite different, in ancient Rome; approximately 20% of the population under Roman rule were slaves.

Slavery was not confined to a certain race of people, anyone could become a slave and some even sold themselves willingly into slavery, if they were bankrupt or destitute for example and when sold to a to a 'good master' it brought them security, they were looked after, their master valued them and treated them well .

Usually once someone was sold into slavery, they remained a slave for life; they gave up all their rights and were completely owned by the master to use in whatever way necessary.

Of course there was abuse of the position but it was rare.

All the Apostles who wrote the epistles of the New Testament referred to themselves as Christ's slaves. They understood the nature of the relationship that we have with Christ Jesus, our **Lord**.

In fact the word Lord (which we use often) and slave are interconnected. If you call someone Lord it means they are your master.

When I was thinking about this: I had a picture: we are all in the market place lined up. Jesus passes down the line and picks some people out, He buys them, He purchases them by his blood, they are purchased from the devil who's property they were, and only the blood can buy them. And they become Jesus' possession.

I don't know why He chooses some and not others; he may well choose the 'odd bods' in that line, the 'weak', and the 'poor in spirit but how blessed they are to be chosen. (Matt 6)

So much today about 'free rights' I can do what I want. I'm independent and free to live the life I want, nobody owns me! However the truth is when you become a Christian you give up your will for another. Romans 14:7-8 says this:

*"For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> for if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's"*

As I said earlier if we could only grasp this truth that 'our lives are not our own' – we are His possession, we are in His hands to do with us as He will. It's a glorious freedom and release to know this. There is No higher privilege to have the Lord of the universe as your master.

**Thirdly and finally what does mean for us who have been purchased by His blood?**

To come into His service. The privileges are Immeasurable.

Firstly our work for Him is not burdensome. He is a loving and kind master who cares about our every need we will not want for anything in his service 'But even the hairs of your head are all numbered' (Matt 10:30)

**In fact this word purchase in the Greek *peripoieó*** means to properly, *fully* acquire (literally, "make all-around, comprehensive purchase, to make one's own; reserve

for oneself, with deep personal interest (*caring*). We were purchased at such a price it shows are value to Him.

Our motivation is gratitude. If he hadn't purchased us where we would be? I said last week about my own life I was in the 'pig's pen' at the 'bottom of the barrel' but when He rescued me, when He picked me out from that line, when He purchased me with His blood. He set my feet on a rock.

In fact the scriptures tell us it is the destiny of all 'not in Christ' to face destruction, a lost eternity without God - but He has rescued us. As Edwin song says our 'destiny is secure' so in summing up;

If you're 'in Christ' you have been purchased by his blood, there is nothing else in all creation that could have paid the price of that transaction, it cost him everything, His life, to save our life. That is the value He puts on you and me.

Because of that He has made us **His possession** to do with us as He wills – let us be **willing slaves** to serve Him with all we've got, with all our heart and without fear because He loves us as our master but also our friend.

So that we may reign with Him throughout eternity.

I will leave you with these comments fom JC Ryle.

*“Let us serve Jesus faithfully as our Master. Let us obey Him loyally as our King. Let us study His teachings as our Prophet. Let us work diligently after Him as our Example.*

*Let us look anxiously for Him as our coming redeemer of body, as well as soul. But above all let us prize Him as our Sacrifice, and rest our whole weight on His death as atonement for sin.*

*Let His blood be more precious in our eyes every year we live. Whatever else we glory in about Christ—let us glory above all things in His cross”*

Amen.

*Tony Troy*

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