

] Not Dead and Not For Sale [

Ephesians 1:7 – 9

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~ Our previous several reports from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God have been tantamount to radical, invasive spiritual surgery. I understand those reports have literally struck a nerve with some people. They hurt – a lot. See, our spiritual cancer is never going to be cured without myriad medications and multiple medical procedures. Sometimes, God starts cutting; and He doesn't apologize for His method. I don't apologize for Him; and, even though some of you have called me some very unlovely names, and have said some utterly hateful and untrue things to and about me, you don't really hate me. See, you do not even know me. You have no earthly idea what you are talking about when you say those things. What you hate is sound doctrine; because that's all I have presented to you.

The contents of these reports, friends, is not an opinion. This isn't even doctrine or theology. These lessons come straight to you from the Holy Spirit of God. I am, more or less, like a telephone. I do not initiate the call. I don't answer the phone when it rings. I do not participate in the private message of the call. I am a simple device by which God speaks to you. God Himself has placed these reports in your path for a reason; and that reason is because He wants to talk to you. You can refuse the call – you have that right – and you can just let God go to your voicemail and delete it without listening to it. However, if you do that, then guess what? – you're not the predestinated elect of God according to His foreknowledge before the foundation of the world — even if you think you are!

I *KNOW* many of you dear readers do not like this kind of talk, you find it repulsive, you find me distasteful, offensive, proud, arrogant – and many of you have even called this work blasphemous. Well, okay, but, see, here's the thing: I don't report to you. I report directly to my Father in Heaven. God never asked me to apologize for what He has to say to you; He has only instructed me to teach you His Word properly, correctly and completely. That's the report I turn in. When I get the hate messages that many of you

have sent me lately I know – *FOR SURE* – that I am doing my job correctly. So, with that said, let me make the same old disclaimer I have made many times before: definitely do not read this report. I *P-R-O-M-I-S-E* you that if you have found the last few reports offensive, then this one is going to raise your blood pressure to medically dangerous levels....

7 The Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we have redemption through His blood and forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

~ Drink those three verses down slowly and carefully. We're contemplating a dizzying mountain peak in God's government; the likes of which we have not attained to previously in this so-called safari. From here, we're going to leap from one spiritual summit to the next, actually — without ever coming down. That's why it's so difficult for many people to breathe up here. We must put on the oxygen mask of Scripture to survive this. Well, these understandings of truth are so vitally important for our Christian lives that I would be irresponsible if I didn't take you to these pinnacles.

In this report, we are going to learn how Christ paid for the church; which He chose before the foundation of the world, and predestinated unto service according to the good pleasure of His will. That means redemption through His Blood! If you have not read our last two safari reports – and if you really love Jesus – then I suggest you go back and read them now. If you do not love Jesus then, as I have said, I highly suggest and strongly encourage you to *STOP* reading the Spiritual Safari and move along to something else. I have no intention of casting my pearls before swine and dogs. I have no patience or tolerance at all for apostates. Christ redeemed us through His Blood, friends; but it's just not quite as simple as the simple-minded make it out to be, either.

Redemption through the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only possible way you and I will ever have forgiveness of our sins. Our last two reports

have suspended us in eternity; but, now, we move into the time of the here and now as we know it. That is, in eternities past, God chose us and predestinated us and made us acceptable in His Beloved Son. Now that all of that has been accomplished, we are placed into the Hands of the Lord Jesus. Christ is moving today through matter, space, and time to complete construction of the church. The historical facts the Word of God provides are that Jesus was born into this world as a man in Bethlehem — two thousand plus years ago — and that means God intruded into humanity. Subsequently, after thirty-three years of life as a man, Jesus was crucified, and shed His Blood for us upon the cross, was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea — and rose bodily from the dead — and ascended back into Heaven.

It took all of that work to accomplish our redemption through the Blood He shed on the cross at Golgotha — the place of the skull — a.k.a. Calvary. Of course, it's a real place in Israel, and what happened there was, likewise, real. The teaching of sound doctrine is not popular today. The thing most people crave is aesthetically pleasing in nature. The cross of Christ does not appeal to the prideful part of man, friends — the cross of Christ is an offense to our thinking. That's why the crosses we have on our steeples and in our sanctuaries, forged in gold and worn around the neck, are lovely looking tokens. But the real cross was nothing even close to those images, you may be sure.

Unfortunately, almost all churches today make their appeal to the old nature of mankind in one of two ways; (1) there is almost *NO* emphasis on the Blood of the crucified Lord Jesus Christ and, or (2) they attempt to heavily convict the minds of people by constantly emphasizing their sins — which may not be altogether bad — but Satan is the only one who continually accuses us of sin — not Christ — but that's another lesson for another time, too. See, redemption is not just as simple as Exodus and Leviticus made it seem. That was complicated stuff, but we're approaching the unknowable now. There are things we will never know unless a genuine man of God is carried away in the Spirit, and passes his vision along to you.

The Blood of the crucified Lord Jesus Christ is absolutely abhorrent, loathsome, and detestable to any unsaved man; and to many self-

professing believers, too. Tell an atheist Jesus died for their sin, and watch them literally come unglued. Well, I don't plan on placing too much emphasis on the Blood of Christ in this report, because one cannot place too much emphasis on the Blood of Christ! I've already mentioned it seven times, and I'm going to mention it another seven times, at least, before we're done.

See, the thing that is so repulsive about the Blood of Christ is that your sin and my sin required it to be shed for our salvation. That's where the natural man's understanding breaks-down entirely, and a realization of dreadful, frightful, obnoxious, unsavory, execrable, nasty, nauseating, distasteful – and sometimes *HATEFUL* — truths of wisdom start to become a reality. The Blood redemption and forgiveness of sins are altogether offensive, objectionable; and largely, tragically, disdained as a matter of theological discourse.

Hebrews 10: 6 *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool ~*

God Himself drafted the blueprints for our present spiritual church home. Don't miss that. Someone had to pay for, design, and ultimately build it, as Jesus promised Simon Peter would happen. Well, that Someone is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself — He Who has nail-pierced hands! The entire context of the Old Testament is the expiation of sins by the blood of an animal sacrifice. However, the blood of bulls and goats never took away sins; they only *covered* those sins until the Lord Jesus Christ came without spot or blemish, and offered His precious and perfect Blood once, for all. Paul said,

"... we have our redemption through His Blood and forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace." Christ is the *ONLY* accepted Beloved of God, my beloved.

Blood redemption is the primary work of the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ; and that redemption is the only redemption available to mankind. Redemption was the top priority to be fulfilled when Christ came to the earth. Jesus foreordained it that way; and He said, *"even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."* That's Matthew chapter twenty verse twenty-eight, by the way. You and I were slaves in sin when Christ bought us with a ridiculously high price. The lost man of the world is in the slavery of sin. Any reasonable, thinking person can simply look around the world and recognize the truth of that statement. Man is a rotten and corrupt sinner who can't do anything naturally *EXCEPT* sin more. Satan wasn't about to just let us go for free — and he wasn't offering any discount pricing for the liberty of his captives, either. However, any man of the devil — and the devil himself — has a price. Think about all of that in prayer for a little while and see what you come up with.

There are three Greek words in the New Testament that are each translated into the single word *"redemption"* in English. One of those words means: *"to buy in the marketplace."* Just as you go the store, pay them for a gallon of milk, and that milk becomes your property. The assumption is that you have bought it for your own purpose, plan and consumption. You have taken that milk off the market; but you could take it to the next town, where they don't have any milk, and you could resell it.

Fortunately, the next word translated *"redemption"* means it is taken off of the market *permanently* — and is no longer for sale again; because it is set free. It has been given its own liberty in Christ, in this context. We saw this principle in Galatians as Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law — and was made a curse for us. Our redemption in Christ always means we are never to be exposed for sale again. We have been given life in Christ Jesus so, we're not dead, and we're not for sale. That should be a beautiful reality for us, my beloved. It is for me. Jesus said, *"if the Son makes you free you shall be free indeed."*

1 Peter 1: 18 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently ~*

Our redemption is more valuable, more precious, and more rare than any substance in the entire world. There are less than two gallons of blood in a human body. That type of limited supply always drives the price up. Interestingly, one *drop* of Christ's Blood will save every single sinner in every age throughout the millennia on this earth *IF – IF – IF* they will trust and obey Him. See, we're redeemed by the Blood; because that's the way God did it. He says without the shedding of Blood, there is no remission of sins. God isn't taking a vote to see if we approve of His way – and He isn't considering suggestions for any other ways. Blood is the way it is – Blood is *THE* way – Blood is the *ONLY* way. Blood redemption as the exclusive means of salvation applies to the entire human race; from Adam — all the way down to the last man standing in eternity future. There is no other way — and there never will be another way, either, by the way.

Forgiveness is also inextricably intertwined in Blood redemption; but forgiveness of sins and trespasses is not the act of some over-indulgent Deity Who is moved by sentiment to the exclusion of justice, righteousness, and holiness. Forgiveness depends on the shedding of the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We must be able to make a distinction between human forgiveness and divine forgiveness, too; because they are not the same thing. Human forgiveness, on the human plane, means to just cancel out the account debt or void the contract; it is always based on the fact that some penalty for some wrong deed is deserved, but is waived. We tell our children they are forgiven, and that's the end of it. Divine forgiveness is *NEVER* that.

There is no forgiveness with God apart from the execution of a penalty. That's something our entire legal system was based upon; but has since been distorted and manipulated by bribery and corruption, to the point where there is no credibility left therein; but I digress. That's why our court system is completely bogged down, and we live in a nation that hate the police and make heroes of criminals. There's no other reason for the lawlessness and borderline anarchy on the streets of this country, friends – none whatsoever.

Many people say, “.... well, if God can forgive, I can forgive.” Friends, God required the penalty be paid. Whenever I hear that statement, I know immediately I am dealing with an unsaved person. Is that a harsh and dogmatic statement? You bet your life it is. Man cannot forgive on that basis; because no man is willing to take the place of the subject they proclaim to be forgiving. My beloved readers, you're going to have to get this straight in your thinking before you are ever going to walk in the Spirit of God in any meaningful and useful way. I *KNOW* this doesn't appeal to the refined and sophisticated nature of the modern civilized religion; and it doesn't appeal to the natural man, that's for sure. Well, I'm not trying to make an appeal. I've already warned you not to read this so-called safari. That's your problem now. I'm teaching the Word of God in sound doctrine – and let me tell you something else: you can take it, or you can leave it. I didn't say that – God said that. Take any complaints up with Him.

If you teach these truths in a church today, be prepared to say “*good-bye*” to your congregation before you do. They are *NOT* going to sit there and listen to this as a sermon anymore – those days are *O-V-E-R*; you can just write that down, too. Interestingly, while Blood redemption is considered distasteful as doctrine by most so called Christians, their sins don't seem to bother them much. That's what they define “*sophistication*” – by suave and clever individuals. This Scripture is where the Lord declares, “*I never knew you.*” If you reject the teaching of sound doctrine that the Spirit of God is bringing you through this Spiritual Safari, then you are on the highway to hell. It's not funny. It isn't cute anymore. Make a note. In fact, you may want to make several notes....

Acts 26: 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord Jesus Christ said, *"I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Me"* ~

Luke 24: 46 And the Lord Jesus Christ saith unto them, *"Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high"* ~

Colossians 1: 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature ~

Romans 4: 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification ~

Romans 5: 15 But not as the sin, so also is the free gift. For if through the sins of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many ~

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