

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Cost Of Our Redemption

(Jerry Fite)

In a lecture on the Pentateuch, Alexander Campbell stated the following to his male students at Bethany College: “Gentlemen, it is a very solemn thought, that it cost God infinitely more to redeem man than to create him.” God spoke the universe into existence and it stood fast (*Psalms 33:6, 9*) His commanding word ushered light into time’s sight (*Genesis 1:3*). God’s wisdom and power partnered to form man from the dust of the ground, and God’s breath created a living soul (*Genesis 2:7*). One marvels over the incomparable energy and power the word has emanating from God. But from God’s perspective, mere speaking and breathing was the cost of creating man. Redeeming man cost Him greatly, for He “gave His only begotten son” (*John 3:16*).

The price to procure our redemption from Sin was the precious blood of Jesus. As of a lamb without blemish and without spot, “even the blood of Christ” was what it cost God to free man from sin (*1 Peter 1:19*). For God to remain true to his Holy character,

He could not overlook sin and remain Just. The death of animals was the inefficient type prefiguring the perfect offering of the lamb of God - Jesus the Son of God (*Hebrews 10:1,4; John 1:29,34*).

Our redemption cost Jesus much pain and suffering. He suffered much in just anticipating his painful death. Jesus was not just amazed and troubled. He was “greatly amazed, and sore troubled.” He was not merely sorrowful, but rather “exceeding sorrowful even unto death” (*Mark 14:33-34*). One grimaces to think of the back being ripped to fleshly shreds by the metal and bones attached to the slashing whip. But Jesus endured this assault with an outstretched and unprotected back. Such pain may sometimes escape our attention when we read the mere words, “but Jesus he scourged” (*Matthew 27:26*). But Jesus was paying dearly.

Jesus did not just die, He was crucified. Piercing the nails into the hands would make many turn their heads. The added

words of mockery and blasphemy seem so cruel in light of the truth. But Jesus endured it all (*cf. John 20:25, Mark 15:16-20, 25, 29-32, 33-34*). For six hours he suffered before He gave up his spirit in death.

It is a solemn thought indeed when we try to fathom the painful cost of our redemption. Those who have not yet been saved from their sins need to think about what has occurred in order for them to be saved. God “so loved the world” that He graciously paid so much. How can this costly expression of love go by the wayside or not even be acknowledged? Such love should move the thoughtful sinner to repentance and baptism (*Acts 2:38*). Such obedience is the least we can do in light of what God has done for us!

The cost God paid for our redemption should cause us who are Christians to think solemnly. How can we sin after being saved and it not bother us? We must never forget that Jesus died to make us holy. How can we return to the world?