

purifying or cleansing our sinful hearts, we would soon be back in sin's chains. Praise God, when He redeems a sinner, He changes him or her from the inside out. (2 Corinthians 5:17) "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*" (2 Corinthians 5:21) "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*" (Cf., Re 1:5). We still have a sin nature, but through Christ we can have the victory over sin (Romans 6:11-13).

- 2) Christ desires to make us a *peculiar people*. This does not mean weird. It means a people for His personal possession. At salvation, a sinner becomes one of God's children. The hymn writer, Norman Clayton, was right when he penned, "*Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me, not for the years of time alone, but for eternity.*"^{GH487}
- 3) As his peculiar people, He wants us to be *zealous of good works*. Jesus did not purify us so that we can do as we please. He redeemed and purified us that we might belong to Him and be zealous of good works. The idea of *zealous* is to be burning with zeal or eagerness. He redeemed, cleansed and transformed us so that we might eagerly do *good works* for His glory. Good works are deeds that are acceptable to God and pleasing to him. The Bible never says that good works can *earn* or *keep* salvation. They are a result of true salvation.

Conclusion: We owe a tribute of praise to Christ for **WHAT** He did and for **WHY** He did it. (Read Titus 2:14) *Christ's redemption is like a gift certificate with an expiration date. If you do not receive it, it will expire the moment you die. Once you die, it will be too late to receive it.*

Jesus paid in full for your redemption and purification. If you have not yet received Christ's redemption and purification, I urge you to humble yourself and receive it today. The hardest part is admitting your guilt. Please let me or someone else help you today.

If you have received Christ's redemption and purification, praise Him and live for His glory in all that you do and say.

Song: Now I Belong to Jesus **487**

A Tribute to Christ

27 September 2020 AM – Titus 2:14 – Tit20 – Scott Childs

Introduction: People give tributes to all sorts of heroes, including dads, mums, teachers, and those who risk their lives to help others, but the one who deserves the greatest tribute of praise is Jesus Christ.

Transition: We owe a tribute to Christ for two reasons.

1. We Owe a Tribute to Christ for **WHAT** He did.

a. He gave Himself for us.

- 1) As sinners, we can do nothing to fix our hopeless condition. A New Year's resolution will never fix our bent to sin. Doing penance will never change our sinful hearts.
- 2) We sin because we are sinners. We were born sinners. Jeremiah 17:9 reminds us that, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*"
- 3) No one is except from the curse of sin. (Ecclesiastes 7:20) "*For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*" (Romans 3:10) "*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*"
- 4) Our only hope is for an eternal, sinless substitute to pay the debt of our sin and give us a new heart. Jesus Christ, God the Son, gave Himself to die for us. That is amazing. (Galatians 1:4) "*Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.*" (Galatians 2:20) "[Paul] *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*" (Ephesians 5:2) "*And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*" (1 Timothy 2:6) "*Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*"
- 5) Jesus came to earth for one reason, (John 3:17) "*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*" That includes you!

b. He gave Himself for us.

- 1) It is important that we do not miss this. The Jews did not kill Jesus. Pilate did not kill Jesus. The Roman soldiers did not kill Jesus. He gave Himself for us.
- 2) God the Son left heaven for us. (Philippians 2:7-8) "*But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*"
- 3) Jesus said, (John 10:15) "*As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*" (John 10:18) "*No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*" Speaking to Pilate, (John 19:11) "*Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.*"

📖 Truly, we owe a tribute of praise to Christ for what he did.

2. We Owe a Tribute to Christ for WHY He did it.

a. He gave Himself in order that He might redeem us

- 1) Being sinners, *iniquity* (i.e., lawlessness) has bound every one of us. As sinners, we are prisoners to sin, unable to break the chains of lust, selfishness, disobedience, bad habits and ungodliness that bind us.
- 2) Christ desires to *redeem* us from sin's bondage. The word *redeem* means to liberate by payment of ransom. The only hope of ever escaping the bondage of sin and its ultimate doom in the Lake of Fire is to have someone redeem us. The only one qualified was the eternal, sinless, Jesus, God the Son.
- 3) The price Christ paid to redeem us was fathomless. He paid for every one of my filthy sins, the payment for which was an eternity in the Lake of Fire. Not only did Jesus pay for my debt, but he paid for yours as well. In fact, He paid the debt for the entire human race. (1 John 2:2) "*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for*

ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

- 4) Our text says, He gave Himself that he MIGHT redeem us. You must not overlook that word "*might*".
- 5) **ILLUSTRATION:** Suppose that you needed to take the train to the city but had no money to buy a train ticket. If I took you to the train station, bought a ticket and handed it to you, that ticket would do you no good if you refused to take it from me. The same is true of Christ's offer to redeem you.
- 6) Christ paid your debt in full, **but** He cannot apply it to your account until you *receive it*.
- 7) Sadly, multitudes of religious people think they can buy or earn Christ's redemption by doing good things.
 - a) My friend, you cannot receive Christ's payment through baptism or through completing a confirmation course.
 - b) You do not receive Christ's payment by going to church, singing, praying, giving offerings, or being good.
 - c) In fact, God states, (Ephesians 2:8-9) "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"
 - d) The truth is you do not receive Christ's redemption by repeating a prayer. Receiving it must be a sincere choice from your repentant heart.
- 8) Christ paid your debt in full, but He cannot apply it to your account until you repent and receive it by faith. (Acts 3:19) "*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...*" To repent is to change your mind about your guilt and God's solution. To be converted is to turn around and by faith accept Christ's payment. (John 1:12) "*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*"

b. He gave Himself in order that He might purify us

- 1) Once redeemed, a sinner needs *purified*. Redemption is just the beginning. If Christ redeemed us without