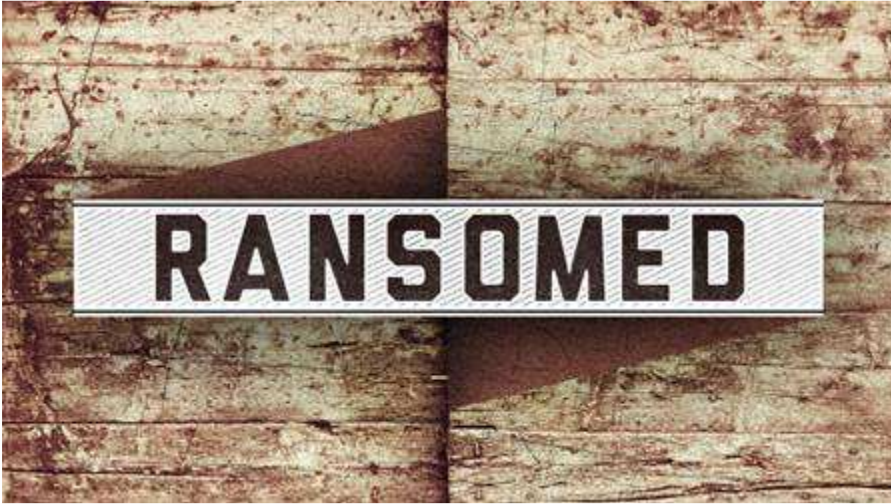


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**From:** Mary Craig  
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**Subject:** Mary Craig Ministries Good Friday Message April 2012 e-mail



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.  
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### **Ransom: By Power and By Price**

*You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (1 Peter 1:18–21)*

A ransom is something that is paid to provide for the release of someone who is held captive. Jesus paid our ransom to free us from sin, death, and hell.

Throughout the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are found God's requirements for sacrifices. In Old Testament times, God commanded the Israelites to make animal sacrifices for substitutionary atonement; that is, an animal took the place of a person to make atonement for sin. Exodus 29:36a states, "Each day you must sacrifice a young bull as an offering for the atonement of sin."

God makes holy. Covenant people were to keep holy. God's Law demanded holiness. In His grace, God provided a means of atonement. **Not without blood.** To enter the Holy of Holies required blood sacrifice. God established the sacrifices which satisfied His requirements.

*Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests  
 Went always into the first tabernacle,  
 Accomplishing the service of God.  
 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year,  
 Not without blood,  
 Which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people.*

4/7/2012

*Hebrews 9:6, 7*

There were some sins for which there was no atonement, but for which repentance and restitution were required. Those sins for which there was no atonement included, for example, “sins with a high hand,” deliberate or willful sin, intentional sin, murder, and the swearing of false oaths. The Day of Atonement brought cleansing of sins against God, but annually (Lev. 16:30). The Day of Atonement brought renewal through cleansing of sin, restoration of relationship with God, but not once-for-all-time. The New Covenant brings a better sacrifice.

*For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer  
Sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh,  
How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the  
Eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God,  
Purge your conscience from dead works  
To serve the living God. (Hebrews 9:13, 14)*

God is Lawgiver, King, and Judge. Thus, Jesus had the authority to forgive sin even before dying on the Cross. Amazingly, on the Cross Jesus asks the Father to forgive, “for they know not what they do.” In doing this, Jesus set forth the act of His crucifixion in a category that could be forgiven. In many ways, we see God-Who-Forgives.

In the NT Romans 3:23 says, “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” The new covenant is better in quality and kind. Hebrews 9:7-15

*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak  
Through the flesh, God sending His own Son  
In the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin,  
Condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law  
Might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh,  
But after the Spirit. Romans 8:3, 4*

Some say that this ransom was paid to Satan, that before we become the adopted children of God, believers are sons of the devil. Is this true? No. Consider.

Satan is a liar, murderer, and thief. (John 8:44) Why would God pay a thief? Yes, this thief is known as the prince of this world, but it does not mean he is prince legitimately. It only means he rules as the prince of darkness over those in darkness, as God has appointed him. Liars, thieves, and murderers also serve His purposes, until all evil is put away. So why should God pay off His own agents of evil, who serve Him according to the judgments He performs with men? The Scriptures leave no doubt that God rules in perfect power, even now:

*I form the light, and create darkness:*

*I make peace, and create evil:*

*I the LORD do all these things. (Isaiah 45:7)*

“With Him is strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are His” (Job 12:16).

Here is the big difference between man and God: Men will pay ransoms or grant favors to liars, thieves, and murderers to somehow preserve themselves, be it their valuables, business ventures, freedoms, citizens, children, or other loved ones. But God did not so much as preserve His only begotten and beloved Son. His own arm brought Him salvation for His prize creature, man. It pleased the LORD to bruise His Son. (Isaiah 53:10)

God paid for every believer with His own life, in Christ. He was not moved or restrained by the true cost for what was needful. His act was not one of capitulation to the enemy, but one of grace (unmerited favor) toward the elect. He paid a price in that He gave believers that which they do not deserve, out of His love, grace, mercy, and generosity.

God owes Satan nothing. God is the Creditor and we are debtors all.

Would Satan turn people over after getting a ransom? Does he have virtue? And if the ransom was paid to Satan, why would Satan seek to prevent the plan of redemption throughout? "But He [Jesus] turned and said to Peter, Go, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you do not savor the things that are of God, but those that are of men." (Matthew 16:23) That means that Peter was not thinking like God thinks concerning the plan of God concerning Jesus' crucifixion; Peter was thinking like a man.

Jesus did not come to pay Satan off, but to destroy him. "Since then the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise partook of the same; that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death (that is, the Devil), and deliver those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Redemption is connected to ownership. Paul wrote:

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have of God? And you are not your own, for you are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

And: "You are bought with a price, do not be the slaves of men" (1 Corinthians 7:23).

The ransom price for our souls was paid into the hands of God, whose justice was offended, whose law we broke, and who is the lawgiver, that is able to save and to destroy, and against whom all sin is committed, who will by no means clear the guilty unless his justice is satisfied. He is the judge of all the earth who will do right. (Genesis 18:25) Therefore Christ is said "to redeem" men "unto God by his blood" (Rev. 5:9). The price of redemption, which is the blood of Christ, was paid unto God. It was by the ransom price of Christ's shed blood that the redemption of our souls from the vindictive justice of the infinite, holy, and righteous Lord God was obtained.

The ransom price was not paid into the hands of Satan, or any other enemy that had power over us. **The power of Satan was only a usurped power.** He had no legal right to hold the elect captives. Therefore the delivery of our souls out of Satan's hand is by power and **not** by price. **The price was paid to God.**



The justice of God had a legal right to shut us up and detain us as prisoners until full satisfaction was given. Therefore redemption from avenging justice, which is the redemption that is by Christ, is redemption by a price paid to justice for the ransom of God's elect. It is written, "*Of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, he that glories, let him glory in the Lord*" (1 Cor. 1:30-31). Jesus Christ is made of God unto us Redemption. He redeems and saves his people by three mighty works of deliverance.

1. **By Ransom Price** - The Son of God paid the justly demanded price of believers' ransom from the law's curse. He paid by His perfect, infinite, and full righteousness and by His finished, infinite, and full atonement.
2. **By Regenerating Power** - At the appointed time, the Lord of Glory sends His Holy Spirit to regenerate, to quicken from the dead, His ransomed people. By sovereign, irresistible grace and power the Spirit of God sets chosen, redeemed sinners free from the bondage of sin, the tyranny of Satan, and the terror of the law, calling them to life and faith in Christ. That call to life and faith is not an offer, but the gift and operation of life and faith in Christ!

*Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead  
That Jesus Christ may shine on you.  
Ephesians 5:14*

3. **By Resurrection Glory** - At the day appointed by the Father, our Lord Jesus Christ shall come again in power and great glory to gather His saints in the resurrection of the just into His heavenly kingdom. When He has raised our bodies from the grave and destroyed all our enemies and His, when He has glorified all His saints and made all things new, then, we shall forever be delivered from all the consequences of sin!



*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. (Revelation 21:1-5)*

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