

EVENING MESSAGE: STOLEN FROM GOD

10-30-16

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

I Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

There is no one in all the universe that has had more things stolen from them than God himself..

Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

I. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WE DO NOT ROB GOD OF OUR LIVES, WHICH HE PURCHASED.

I Corinthians 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

I Corinthians 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

I Corinthians 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

I Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

I Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

I Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

When Christ died on the cross He purchased us.

We are redeemed in Christ.

How many of us are operating stolen equipment?

We are not our own. We are bought with a price.

1. THINK ABOUT THIS, HOW MANY PEOPLE DID JESUS PURCHASE AND DIE FOR? EVERY UNSAVED PERSON IS BLOOD BOUGHT.

II Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

It is a bit of a mystery to some how it is that Jesus died for all, yet all are not saved. This is, I believe, the greatest sin of all, denying the Lord that purchased our souls on Calvary!

Now this will revolutionize your witness if you think about it. Why is it that we think that God loses out if people reject Him? Think about it, those who reject the Lord lose out!

Imagine the audacity of those 1st century Jews who knew the Lord was resurrected and yet paid those soldiers to lie about it.

Imagine their guile when they locked up Peter and the other Apostles, when God supernaturally had an angel miraculously release them, and then they said:

Acts 5:28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Didn't these same leaders say, when Pilot sought to release Christ, His blood be upon us and upon our children?

Jesus is Lord.

Jesus paid and bought every human being that was born is born and shall be born.

HE IS LORD OF LORDS HE IS KING OF KINGS.

Now if that is true, think about the repercussions of rejecting Him?
Every person who denies the Lord that bought them.

There is no recourse but to send all that reject him to that place of darkness reserved for the greatest rebel of all. That one who blinds the hearts and minds of all that will not believe.

There is only one reason people reject the Lord

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

II Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

HOW SAD THESE WORDS ARE.

Every unsaved person we talk to that rejects this good news thinks their decision to not believe in Christ makes His authority over them annulled. Yet it is just the opposite, He is still their Lord. One day when they are awakened from the dead and have to stand before Him they will be rudely awakened.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

They are living a life in rebellion against their creator.

How sad it is.

How devastating it will be!

God will not in that day ask them if they believe in the Resurrection.

He will just resurrect them!

2. BUT NOT ONLY ARE THE UNSAVED IN TROUBLE, THOSE WHO NAME THE NAME OF JESUS ARE IN DEEP WATERS IF THEY ARE LIVING THEIR LIVES ANY OLD WAY THEY WANT.

When we go and do what we want to do, with no consideration of what God would have us to do, we are taking ownership of something that does not belong to us.

When we pursue things on our own without consulting the Lord in prayer, this is evidence that we are taking control of the Lord's property.

3. What does it mean that we are bought and purchased of the Lord?

I Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

I Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

4. Our bodies should be presented to the Lord as a living sacrifice.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Our bodies do not belong to us to with as we please but they are the Lord's.

Think about this, if I go to my neighbor's house and decide to paint their house pink or red, what would happen?

I would be arrested because I do not have the authority to do this.

But we go about doing with our bodies what we want to do.

We get mad at the preacher when he preaches something in the Bible about dress. We call him a legalist.

We get mad at the preacher when he talks about keeping our bodies holy, morally pure. We call him an old fuddy duddy.

Who owns your body according to this verse:

I Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

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Who owns your body?

If your neighbour goes on vacation and you see you can get away with desecrating their house , that doesn't mean you got away with it.

When they come back there will be a reckoning.

Jesus has gone away.

Luke 19:13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

Luke 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Your very body is not yours.. it has been entrusted to you by God.

I Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

If this body is the Lord's how should we treat it?

5. HOW DO WE SET APART AND PRESENT OUR BODIES APART UNTO GOD?

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**A. *We should set this body apart for God. it should be Holy.
Holy means to be set apart consecrated. When something is Holy
It was to be used for God's purpose only.***

**B. *We should do things which are acceptable to God.
We should dress it in a way that is acceptable unto God.
We should feed our bodies things that are acceptable unto God.
We should do with it what is acceptable unto God.***

This involves everything physical, eating, drinking, what we wear, where we go, what we do.

C. *Such things are only reasonable, not unreasonable.*

I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

I Corinthians 10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

Now who owns our bodies? When we take ownership and do with our bodies what we think is right, apart from the Word of God, we are stealing God's property and if we are saved God will deal with us accordingly.

If God does not deal with us, something worse is true. We are not saved, we are not His children.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

If you just go ahead and do anything you want and nothing happens to you, then this is great evidence you are not His.

There are a lot of so called Christians that look like the world.

They are conformed to the world.

They act like the world.

They talk like the world.

They are totally conformed to the world.

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. **If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

He is the proof in the pudding.

If a person loves the world.

If a person acts like the world.

If a person is conformed to the world.

It is proof positive the love of the father is not in him and there is a great possibility he is not a child of God, especially if God does not chasten Him!

If it looks like a Skunk.

If it smells like a Skunk.

If it walks like a Skunk.

Why are we surprised that it is a skunk?

And there is something that certainly does smell wrong with the contemporary church today!

6. SINCE WE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE WE SHOULD SEEK HIS MIND IN ALL MATTERS.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Who decides what you do in your life?

A. WHAT DOES A THIEF DO WITH STOLEN PROPERTY?

He decides what to do with other peoples property.

If he steals a car he drives it where he wants to go.

If he steals money he spends it where he wants to spend it.

If he vandalizes a house he breaks things and does with it what he will.

Now if God owns your body but you're doing with it what you want, you are a thief. You are a crook. He owns you and you are deciding for yourself what to do with your life.

B. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE YOU RESPECT ANOTHER PERSONS OWNERSHIP?

You ask permission to drive their car and tell them where your going.

If they say no, you respect that.

If you need money, you ask them for money or work for it, and accept what they give you on their terms.

You respect their property and if they let you stay in their house you treat it with respect.

C. *PROOF THAT YOU RESPECT CHRIST'S LORDSHIP OVER YOU IS THE MINDSET YOU HAVE.*

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Who has the right to decide?

Is it your decision?

Or

Is it the Lord's decision?

Our minds need to be renewed.

We need to prove:

WHAT IS THAT GOOD.

WHAT IS THE ACCEPTABLE.

WHAT IS THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD.

How does this happen?

It happen by conforming our thoughts to His thoughts.

It happens by conforming our will to His will.

This happens as our minds and hearts are submitted to the Word of God and not our own ways and thinking.

7. *We need to put away all self ambition:*

A. *The act of going about to solicit or obtain an office, or any other object of desire; canvassing. Obs.*

I used no ambition to commend my deeds. --Milton.

B. *An eager, and sometimes an inordinate, desire for preferment, honor, superiority, power, or the attainment of something.*

C. *We are to crucify all our ambitions at the cross.*

Galatians 2:20 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.

Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Romans 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

D. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE TO US OF THIS TRUTH.

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Philippians 3:11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

So many of us are driving a stolen car. That car is our lives.

We are in the driver's seat, but we do not have the license to be driving.

So every human being is bought with a price, but every Christian should not be ignorant of this truth.

The unsaved are bought but are in denial.

The Christian who lives his life and rejects Christ's Lordship over them will come under judgments.

I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

I Peter 4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

II. ONCE WE REALIZE WE ARE BOUGHT OF THE LORD THEN EVERY AREA OF OUR LIFE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO HIS WILL AND NOT OUR OWN.

1. CONSIDER HE SHOULD BE LORD OVER ALL OUR FINANCES.

NOW THE MOST OBVIOUS THING THAT IS ROBBED OF GOD IS THE TITHE.

The tithe belongs to God. It is not ours to keep.

Leviticus 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 27:31 And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.

Leviticus 27:32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 27:33 He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

Leviticus 27:34 These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai.

2. CONSIDER HE SHOULD BE LORD OVER OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

3. CONSIDER HE SHOULD BE LORD OVER OUR WORSHIP.

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

BUT ALSO ALL PRAISE BELONGS TO GOD WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WE DO NOT ROB GOD OF HIS PRAISE

Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

4. HE SHOULD BE LORD OVER OUR TIME.

Ephesians 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

5. HE SHOULD BE THE LORD OVER OUR FAMILY.

6. CONSIDER HE SHOULD BE LORD OVER ALL.

Isaiah 39:1 At that time Merodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.

Isaiah 39:2 And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

Isaiah 39:3 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.

Isaiah 39:5 Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

Isaiah 39:6 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 39:7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Isaiah 39:8 Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.

II Chronicles 32:25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

II Chronicles 32:26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

When we take credit for things that God is responsible for we rob God of His praise.

God has severely judged people for doing this in the past.

Some things that only God can do.

God alone saves people.

God alone does a spiritual work.

God alone is the authority of all truth.

God is the Lord of his church not men.

People he judged for their pride.

Herod, eaten of worms.

Nebuchadnezzar: Is this not great Babylon which I have built?

Satan.

Many of the Kings of Israel.

IV. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WE DO NOT ROB GOD BY SEEKING TO CONTROL OTHERS WHO HE OWNS.

1. BE CAREFUL OF SETTING YOURSELF UP AS LORD OF CHRIST'S SERVANTS.

Romans 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Romans 14:5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

Romans 14:6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Romans 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

We need to be careful that we do not seek to put a yoke around the neck of God's servants and judge them for their service for the Lord.

Who are we to make such judgments?

2. BE CAREFUL OF GETTING YOUR EYES OFF THE LORD AND LOOKING AT OTHERS. NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS THAT GOD HAS CALLED OTHERS TO DO.

John 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

John 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

John 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

John 21:23 Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?

3. PAUL DID NOT FORCE OTHERS TO DO WHAT HE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD DO.

I Corinthians 16:12 As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.

4. Paul said he didn't even judge himself in this regards.

I Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

I Corinthians 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

I Corinthians 4:4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

I Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

Romans 14:8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

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Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Conclusion:

Are we behind the steering wheel of our lives or are we considering the fact that we are bought with a price? He bought us and therefore He owns us.

I Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

I Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.