

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

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The Staggering Cost of Redemption

When we consider the cost of our redemption, we rightfully look to the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ upon the cross. This cost is referred to in the scripture as a *“ransom.”* This *“ransom”* was not paid to anyone, but it speaks of what it took to destroy our adversary the devil and deliver us from the tyranny of sin. Yet as horrible as the beatings and death by crucifixion were, these were finished after a period of time. There is, however, a price Christ paid for our redemption long before the first stripes were laid upon his back. This may be the true eternal cost of our salvation.

The Apostle John begins his description of Christ, saying, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”* John 1:1-3. Christ, the WORD (the divine expression), was with God and was God!

Paul tells us that Christ was *“...in the form of God, (and) thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”* Philippians 2:6. Christ was not in the form of a man. He was in the form of God. The statement *“thought it not robbery to be equal with God”* tells us that it is not “robbing” the truth to say Christ was equal with God. I will be first to tell you there is much I do not understand about the things of

the “Godhead.” I will also tell you that those who believe they have these things figured out have more likely only deceived themselves.

Paul continues this passage telling us that Christ who was “*in the form of God,*” “*...made himself of no reputation.*” This phrase literally means “*to make empty.*” Christ emptied himself of his glory and power, and “*took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men*” Philippians 2:7. The one by whom “*all things were made*” emptied himself out so he could be made like his creation. Christ gave up “*the form of God*” so he could take on “*the form of a servant.*” The Bible says, “*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren...*” Hebrews 2:17.

The death of Jesus on the cross was not fulfilling a “requirement” that a perfect man die for our sins. Such a death would have accomplished nothing. Our redemption could only be accomplished by the death of the one by whom we were created. God would have to lay down His life to destroy the work of Satan. He would have to shed his blood to cleanse us from our sin. This was a great problem because God cannot die and he has no blood to shed. This is the reason “*the WORD (Christ) was made flesh.*” John 1:14. Every human “body” has, not only a mother, but a father also. The body and blood that was offered at Calvary was not just that of a natural man. It was in fact the holy body and holy blood of God’s Son, who was in fact “*the Lord from Heaven.*” 1 Corinthians 15:47.

When Christ was “*made flesh*” and “*took upon him the form of a servant,*” this was an eternal abasement. This was confirmed when Steven saw “*the heavens opened, and the Son of man*

standing on the right hand of God." Acts 7:56. The term "Son of man" always speaks of someone who is "born of a woman." Jesus Christ is at the Father's side, yet he is still in the "likeness of men." When the Apostle John saw Jesus in the Revelation, he was "...like unto the Son of man." Revelation 1:13. He will eternally be "in the likeness of men" and not "in the form of God."

There is even more scriptural evidence for the staggering price of our redemption. The Apostle Paul tells us that Christ "...must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet." 1 Corinthians 15:25. Yet when the last enemy is destroyed "**...then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**" 1 Corinthians 15:28. I know this verse will make a theologian turn in his grave while he sits on his pew, but it is still the word of God. Christ, who in the beginning "...thought it not robbery to be equal with God," will abide eternally "...subject unto him that put all things under him..." This is what Christ gave up for you. This is the cost of your redemption. I am only pointing out what the word of God clearly says. With such things in mind, let us all remember the words of the apostle: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...!" Hebrews 2:3.