

# *Theme: If Christ is not Risen*

**1 Cor. 15:14**

**And if Christ be not risen, then  
is our preaching vain, and your  
faith is also vain.**

# *Theme: If Christ is not Risen*

Judaism was the only ancient religion that believed in a resurrection event [reuniting of the body and spirit]. Many believed in a reincarnation event where the personhood of a spirit would be lost in the process of being born as a new person. Other religions believed in a spiritual existence or even a spiritual transcendence [unification with the spiritual force of the universe] following death.

For other religions the Jewish belief in resurrection of the physical body was somewhat creepy as they viewed it as the reanimation of a corpse rather than a transformation of the person's very being. The Christian view of salvation comes from the Jewish belief in resurrection. We believe that Jesus Christ was the first to experience this physical resurrection God promised to humanity. But unlike the Jewish faith we believe that the resurrection is accomplished in a through Jesus Christ.

# *Theme: If Christ is not Risen*



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to our Christian faith. Primarily it verifies his claim to divinity. But in addition, it provides...

- ...an anchor in the midst of doubts
- ...hope in the most hopeless of situations
- ...recognition of God's power within us
- ...a full understanding of the meaning of salvation
- ...an understanding of who Jesus really is
- ...the purpose of Christ's suffering
- ... the goal God has for all creation.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

The Substitutionary

Atonement is a central doctrine of the Christian Faith.

“The Agnus Dei” was a worship chant in Latin which became prominent in Christian worship in the late 600s: *[trans.]*

“Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. *[repeat]* Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.”



Agnus Dei [1640] by Francisco De Zurbarán. This painting was based on the Latin Chant introduced in the late 600s called “Agnus Dei” [Lamb of God] which was based on John 1:36

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

## The Substitutionary

Atonement is laid out in Isaiah 53 where he prophesies the future Messiah’s mission of saving humanity. It is a stunning portion of scripture that 600 years before shared the the concept of the substitutionary atonement of Jesus on the cross and connected it directly with the resurrection.



Agnus Dei [1640] by Francisco De Zurbarán. This painting was based on the Latin Chant introduced in the late 600s called “Agnus Dei” [Lamb of God] which was based on John 1:36

## Isaiah 53:10-12 [ESV]

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

There are surprising things that are valued very highly. If we were to break down a human body into minerals the value of the combined amount of minerals in a single human body is about \$1.00. We are mostly made up of water. We all have trace amounts of gold in us amounting to .2 mg. It would take 141,750 human bodies to produce 1 oz of gold.



Glâce Luxury Ice Co. Ice Cubes—\$325 for 50. These Ice cubes are dimensionally perfect spheres or cubes of ultra purified water. They are shipped in dry ice.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

If you tanned our skin and made leather you could add about \$3.50 to \$4 in value making us worth about \$5 in basic products.

It is not for our make up that God values us. Even the wealthiest people in the world, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffet, Mark Zuckerberg, etc., will become dust that is worth less than \$1.



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# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

A gourmet cup of coffee is worth more than one human body processed.

Psalm 49 tells us that all the wealth we possess is insufficient to purchase our own salvation.



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## Psalm 49:7-9 [ESV]

7 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, 8 for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice, 9 that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

Even if you were to sell your body parts on the transplant black market your entire body would be worth around 1.5 million if you are young and in good health. The Aurora Diamante Fountain Pen is worth that much. A human heart is the organ worth the most, it is just under \$700,000. In Romans 2:6-12 Paul points out our inability at our best efforts to save ourselves.



Aurora Diamante Fountain Pen—price \$1,470,600.

## Romans 2:6-12 [ESV]

**6 He will render to each one according to his works: 7** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; **8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.** **9** There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, **10** but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. **11 For God shows no partiality.** **12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.**

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

This detail of the famous Ghent Altarpiece [1432] from “Adoration of the Mystic Lamb by Jan Eck represents a before and after restoration. The restoration just a few years ago uncovered the original with human features on the Lamb



Jan Eck in his masterpiece “The Altarpiece of Ghent” in the paintings John Eck focused on the value of humanity to God. Even the “Lamb” one painting was given very human features *[a later artist touched it up to look less human]*. The concept is that Jesus Christ identified with humanity.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

This detail of the famous Ghent Altarpiece [1432] from “Adoration of the Mystic Lamb by Jan Eck represents a before and after restoration. The restoration just a few years ago uncovered the original with human features on the Lamb



The lamb of God is a sacrifice given for humanity. One who identified with our human nature in all ways except sin. In the garden of Gethsemane [Luke 22:42-44] this is made clear in Jesus' struggle with despair and his surrender to the will of the Father.

## Luke 22:42-44 [ESV]

42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me.

Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.

44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

In a 2003 study of “contract” killers it was determined that the average contract murder cost between \$12-14,000.

The willingness to take a human life in the ancient European world was dependent on ability to pay the value of that person. Wergild or “Man Gold” established this value based on position in society. A Lord or King was over 300 times more valuable than a landless peasant.



Benjamin “Bugsy” Sigel [1906-47]  
- Hitman founder of “Murder Inc.”



## 1 Peter 1:17-21 [ESV]

17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,**  
18 knowing that **you were ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but **with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.**

20 He was **foreknown before the foundation of the world** but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 **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.**

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

Christianity ended the concept of Weregild in European culture. It introduced the concept of “capital punishment” for murder. The reason was that every human was of infinite value before God and the willful taking of that life was an supreme offense against God and a degradation of humanity.

Human society was charged with bring justice in the matter.



Benjamin “Bugsy” Sigel [1906-47]  
- Hitman founder of “Murder Inc.”

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

Bugsy Sigel is one of the most famous “hit men” of all time. He began his career of murder in the early 1920’s when he was only a teenager. He was part of the gang wars of the early “bootleg” era and made a name for himself as “muscle” and a murderer. In 1929 he co-founded “Murder, Inc” the enforcement arm of the National Syndicate an union of the Italian and Jewish family mobs.



Benjamin “Bugsy” Sigel [1906-47]  
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He claimed 16 murders himself but likely was responsible for far more, perhaps in the 100s. In 1939 as pressure mounted on him the Syndicate moved him to California take the heat off him. There he became involved extorting the movie studios, illegal gambling and prostitution. Yet, Sigel was well liked by many in the entertainment industry, he loved his daughter and gave generously to charity



Benjamin “Bugsy” Sigel [1906-47]  
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## 1 Timothy 2:3-6 [ESV]

3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

## Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

The Flamingo Hotel was the original hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. It was established in 1946 by Bugsy Sigel who moved into the planning and building with “mob money”. It was his vision that brought about the development of the Las Vegas Strip. He was murdered in a “hit” in 1947 at his home in Los Angeles. His murder has never been solved.



Paul tells Timothy that it is God’s desire that every person to come to a knowledge of salvation, even very wicked people like Bugsy Sigel. Jesus is the Mediator because he is both God and Human so he can bring us to repentance and acceptance with God by suffering the penalty of our evil choices.

## Romans 8:31-34 [ESV]

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

“Adoration of the Mystic Lamb from the Ghent Altarpiece [1432], this is the central painting of the altarpiece. The fountain of life sits in front of lamb and is provided from His sacrifice. Surrounding the altar and the fountain are the redeemed



Redemption is not based on our value but on God’s love and His image stamped on us at creation. When we are in Christ Jesus we are redeemed and have no cause of shame or accusation due to our sins or those of another.



# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

But without the resurrection as proof of Jesus Christ’s eternal humanity and his authority over death and destruction. His death would have been only that of a martyr on behalf of a great cause. It is because of his resurrection we have assurance that Jesus dealt with our sins on the cross and provides redemption for us.



Agnus Dei [1640] by Francisco De Zurbarán. This painting was based on the Latin Chant introduced in the late 600s called “Agnus Dei” [Lamb of God] which was based on John 1:36

## **Colossians 1:12-14 [ESV]**

**12 ... giving thanks to the Father,  
who has qualified you to share in  
the inheritance of the saints in light.**

**13 He has delivered us from the  
domain of darkness and transferred  
us to the kingdom of his beloved  
Son, 14 in whom we have  
redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

# “The Reality of Redemption”

Isaiah 53:10-12 & 1 Peter 1:17-21

Redemption  
accomplished in  
Jesus’ death is  
complete in the  
resurrection.  
Jesus is  
Redeemer.



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