

## Sermon #69 — *Discovering Christ in Leviticus*

Title:        **GOD’S SLAVES**

Text:        Leviticus 25:35-55

Subject:    *God’s Purchased Slaves*

Date:        Sunday Evening — October 27, 2019

Reading:    *Merle Hart and David Burge*

Introduction:

You will find my text in the Gospel of Leviticus — Leviticus 25:35-55. Let’s read it together.

(Leviticus 25:35-55) “And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: *yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.* (36) Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. (37) Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase. (38) I *am* the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, *and to be your God.* (39) And if thy brother *that dwelleth* by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant: (40) *But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall*

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be with thee, *and* shall serve thee unto the year of jubile: (41) And *then* shall he depart from thee, *both* he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return. (42) For they *are* my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen. (43) Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God. (44) Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, *shall be* of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids. (45) Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that *are* with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. (46) And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit *them for* a possession; they shall be your bondmen forever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour. (47) And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother *that*

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*dwelleth* by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger *or* sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: (48) After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: (49) Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or *any* that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself. (50) And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of jubile: and the price of his sale shall be according unto the number of years, according to the time of an hired servant shall it be with him. (51) If *there be* yet many years *behind*, according unto them he shall give again the price of his redemption out of the money that he was bought for. (52) And if there remain but few years unto the year of jubile, then he shall count with him, *and* according unto his years shall he give him again the price of his redemption. (53) *And* as a yearly hired servant shall he be with him: *and the other* shall not rule with rigour over him in thy sight. (54) And if he be not redeemed in

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these *years*, then he shall go out in the year of jubile, *both* he, and his children with him. **(Now, here's the reason for all this instruction about buying, possessing, inheriting, and selling slaves.)** (55) For unto me the children of Israel *are* servants; they *are* my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.”

**I have come here to call you to the most ennobling, honorable and honoring of all things. I am here to recruit slaves. I am calling upon you to voluntarily put yourself into slavery, taking the Lord Jesus Christ as your Master** (Matthew 11:28-30).

(Matthew 11:28-30) “Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (30) For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”

**Since the Lord God has redeemed us, since he has**

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**saved us by his grace, he claims us as his slaves**  
(vv. 42, 55).

(Leviticus 25:42) “For they *are* my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen.”

(Leviticus 25:55) “For unto me the children of Israel *are* servants; they *are* my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.”

Read this chapter carefully, and you will see that the Lord claimed rule over the children of Israel, dictating to them what they were to be and do in all things. He claimed the rule of their property, their families, their time, their money, their affections, even their attitude toward one another and their enemies.

**And it is only reasonable that we consecrate ourselves to him as voluntary slaves, devoted in all things to him.**

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(Romans 12:1-2) “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. (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.”

**God the Holy Ghost tells us exactly what this slavery involves in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.**

(1 Corinthians 6:9-11) “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. (11) And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,

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and by the Spirit of our God.”

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20) “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? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

**BLESSED FACT**

1<sup>st</sup> — Here is a blessed fact. — “*Ye are bought with a price!*” — “**Ye are bought.**” — This is that idea of redemption which modern heretics dare to denounce as “mercantile redemption.” Mercantile redemption is the redemption proclaimed in the gospel. The expression, “*bought with a price*” is a double declaration of that redemption purchased for sinners by the blood of Christ.

- Christ bought us out from under the curse of the law.

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- Christ sought us out from the ruins of fallen humanity.
- Christ brought us out of condemnation.

“**With a price.**” — How great the cost! How great the sacrifice!

- The Father gave the Son.
- The Son gave himself: his happiness, his glory, his repose, his body, his soul, his life.

(1 Peter 1:18-20) “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; (19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (20) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

**How can we measure the price of our redemption?**

Measure it in the light of —

- Gethsemane.

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- Our Lord's Betrayal.
- The Judgment Hall.
- Calvary (Made Sin! — Forsaken! — Deserted!)

**Our body and spirit are both bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

- This is either a fact or not. — “*Ye are bought,*” or you are unredeemed. — Terrible alternative!
- If this is a fact, it is the fact of your life. — Wonder of wonders!
- It will remain to you eternally the grandest of all facts. If true at all, it will never cease to be true, and it will never be outdone in importance by any other event.

I'm redeemed, by blood divine!  
Glory! Glory! — Christ is mine!  
All to Him I now resign!  
I have been redeemed!

- This fact, the fact that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, ought to operate

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powerfully upon our lives. — This ought to be to most powerful influence there is upon our hearts, the most powerful governing principle of our lives (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

(2 Corinthians 5:14-15) “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: (15) And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

**BLESSED LOSS**

2<sup>nd</sup> — Here is a blessed loss. — “*Ye are not your own.*”

- You are not your own property. — Christ bought you!
- You are not your own provider. — Sheep are fed by their shepherd.
- You are not your own guide. — Ships are steered by their pilot.

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- You are not your own father. — Children are loved by parents.
- We are not our own to waste in idleness, amusement, or ambition.
- We are not our own to use.
- We are not our own to rule.

**We read in Deuteronomy 26**, — “*Thou hast avouched the LORD this day to be thy God...And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people!*” How honored we are to avouch that the triune Jehovah is our God, declaring by our baptism and our confessed faith in Christ that we are his: chosen, redeemed, called, and devoted by faith to him.

But how indescribably blessed it is to have the triune Jehovah avouch that we are his! **As soon as the sinner looks to Christ in faith, trusting him as his only Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption, he has within him God's own avouched assurance that he is God's!** The blood of Christ sprinkled on the heart, the love of God shed

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abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost gives assurance that “*I am my Beloved’s, and my Beloved is mine*” (Song of Solomon 6:3). It is this avouchment, that we are God’s property, that was confessed in the tithes of the law and is confessed in the free, voluntary gifts of God’s saints in the house of God week by week. Look at **Deuteronomy 26:16-19** for a moment.

“16 This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.  
17 **Thou hast avouched the LORD this day to be thy God,** and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice: 18 **And the LORD hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people,** as he hath promised thee, and that *thou* shouldest keep all his commandments; 19 And **to make thee high** above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and **that thou**

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**mayest be an holy people unto the LORD** thy God, as he hath spoken.”

(Deuteronomy 26:16-19)

**BLESSED SLAVERY**

3<sup>rd</sup> — Here is a blessed slavery. — *“Your body and your spirit, which are God’s.”*

- By Creation
- By Sovereign Predestination
- By Eternal Election
- By Special Redemption
- By Irresistible Grace
- By Voluntary Surrender.
- We are altogether God’s. — Body and spirit include the whole man.
- We are always God’s. — The price once paid, we are forever his.

**BLESSED RESPONSIBILITY**

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4<sup>th</sup> — Here is a blessed responsibility. — “*Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*”

**Glorify God in your body.**

(1 Corinthians 10:31) “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

(Colossians 3:12-17) “**Put on therefore, as the elect of God**, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (13) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do ye*. (14) **And above all these things put on charity**, which is the bond of perfectness. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (16) **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another

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in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (17) **And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**”

**Glorify God in your spirit.**

- Faith — Faithfulness
- Hope — Confidence
- Love — Utter Devotion

Let us daily seek his grace, that our God may give us wisdom and grace day by day to honor him, to honor the gospel of his grace, and to bring no reproach upon his name, his gospel, or his church. Compel me, by the sweet, irresistible constraint of your Spirit, my God, to “*have a perfect balance and just weight, a perfect and just measure*” in all my dealings with men in this world.

**BLESSED EXAMPLE**

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5<sup>th</sup> — Here is a blessed example of what it is to be God's slave (Isaiah 42:1-4). — Our dear Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, God's own darling Son voluntarily became the Servant of the triune God, that he might save us by his grace.

(Isaiah 42:1-4) “1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. 2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. 4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.”

Yes, Jehovah's righteous Servant is God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Exodus 21:5-6; Isaiah 50:5-7; Psalm 40:6-10; Hebrews 10:5-14; Philippians 2:5-11).

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- The Lord Jesus Christ voluntarily became his Father's Servant to redeem and save his people (Isaiah 50:5-7).
- He is that One to whom the law of God referred in Exodus 21:5-6. The bond slave who refused his freedom because he loved his master, his wife, and his children was typical of our Savior.
- In the covenant of grace, before the world began, the Son of God voluntarily made himself his Father's Servant, because he loved his Father and his chosen family.

**It was in this capacity that he spoke in Psalm 40:5-10.** Hebrews 10:5-14 explains that the words of our Lord in Psalm 40 referred to his obedience unto death as our Substitute, by which the Lord of glory obtained the everlasting salvation of his chosen. **Our great Savior came into the world in the fulness of time to fulfil his covenant engagements as Jehovah's Servant.** And when he had fulfilled those covenant engagements, his people were redeemed, sanctified, and perfected forever by his finished work.

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(Hebrews 10:1-14) “1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year. 4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure.”

“7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*;

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which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

**This is the basis of our Lord's exaltation and glory**, the means by which he obtained the monarchy of the universe as the God-man, our Mediator (Psalm 2:8; John 17:1-5; Romans 14:9; Philippians 2:5-11). **And this is the basis of my appeal to you.** — **Volunteer to be God's slave forever!**

(Romans 11:33-36) “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How

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unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counsellor? (35) Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? (36) For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.”

(Romans 12:1-2) “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. (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.”

Amen!