

The People of God

Part 4

Hosea 3

As God's people, the elect are called to holiness of life by putting on Christ (Galatians 3:27) and putting off the old man (Colossian 3:9). What holiness is not is some notion of sinless perfection achieved in the sinner by some work of righteousness which we have done. Simply stated, putting off is repenting of such evil thoughts and putting on is resting all our hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ and his righteousness imputed who is himself, according to 1 Corinthians 1:30 of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. He is our holiness.

When we consider what God has done for us, cannot we say with Paul in Romans 12:1-2, "*this is our reasonable service?*" Think about this.

Without contribution from or consideration of our person or position, God chose a remnant in Christ before the world began and predestinated them to be conformed to the image of Christ. (Romans 8:29) In the counsel of the Triune Godhead, the Son stood as the Substitute, Surety and Savior of his people, charged with the eternal well being of every sinner he represented. The Sons of Jacob are not consumed because the Lord changes not. Having loved this remnant with an everlasting love, (Jeremiah 31:3) evidenced by our unchangeable standing in Christ, and that before the foundation of the world, and being blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:4) our fall in Adam was not from grace. When the elect fell in Adam their state of innocence changed, but their standing in Christ remained steadfast. Though their sin brought guilt, defilement and condemnation from God, he continued to view, and declared his elect righteous in their generation (Genesis 7:1) because, as their Surety, Christ had already said if they owe thee aught, I will repay, and God already charged their sin to Christ and accepted them in the beloved all based on the certain establishment and imputation of his perfect righteousness to their charge. That's how David could say 700 years before the cross in Romans 4:7-8, "*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered, Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*" *To whom will the Lord **NOT** impute sin, those to whom righteousness is imputed.* **Read 1 John 3:5**, "*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*" The key to my standing in Christ is his righteousness imputed to me which demands my salvation.

Though our state changed, God's love for his people remains constant. God's love had already prepared for our fall in Adam. He looked to our Surety, "*the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world*" for satisfaction to the laws demands against us and he found it in Christ. **Hebrews 10:14**, "*For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.*" and therefore he ever **liveth** to make intercession for them. His living declares God's acceptance of that righteousness he provided by his obedience, suffering and death. His

intercession pleads that righteousness for us before a Holy God. Christ's promise is that *“whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven.”* Confessing Christ is pleading His righteousness imputed as the whole of my salvation. We plead to Christ his righteousness and he pleads it to the Father on our behalf. Christ's blood poured out satisfied every charge against his people and his righteousness imputed secured our unchangeable standing before God.

“Herein is love.” Unconditional, sovereign, eternal love, the reason we are not consumed.

And what did we do with that love? We parroted Gomer and committed spiritual whoredom. We thumbed our nose at the unconditional love of God and gave our loyalty to an idol of our imagination. But God's people cannot remain in idolatry. Chapter three of Hosea unveils God's response to our rejection of his love, mercy and grace. Even in our rebellion God's love for us never wavered. Why? Hosea 3 gives us three reasons. **The people of God** are:

1. Beloved of God. Hosea 3:1

2. Bought with a price. Hosea 3:2

3. Begotten (of God) unto a lively hope. Hosea 3:3-5, 1 Peter 1:3.

1. The people of God are beloved of God. V-1

The Holy Scriptures reveal three characteristics of God. In John 4:24, **“God is Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”** In 1 John 1:5, **God is Light.** *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”* In 1 John 4:8 **God is Love.** *“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”*

Much has been written about the love of God. Most of it dishonors the love of the true and Living God. Most, written by those ignorant of his love make it conditional to our obedience. If we obey, he dispenses his love: if we disobey, he with holds his love. John 3:16 is a good example. *“For God so love the world, he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* If we believe, God will love. To insist on the condition of believing is to reject the love of the true and living God, clearly defined in the preaching of the gospel. Another example: **1 John 4:10.** *“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* Under clear teaching that it is not our love for Christ but his love for us, the lost insist on holding on to the notion that it is the sinners love to God that makes the difference in saved or lost.

Those quickened from the dead know and are persuaded that God's love is the only cause of our salvation. Had he not moved in us, we would never have come to him. Jesus said in **John 5:40,** *“And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”* In John 6:44, again Jesus said, *“No man*

can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” Hosea 3:2: “I bought her to me.”

Those beloved of God, who have experienced that love, know that *“we love him because he first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19)

Paul, writing in 1 Corinthians 13:13 said this: *“And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”* Faith is a gift of invaluable worth. Hope is priceless and every regenerated sinner has both. God’s elect will believe; they will hope, but greater than these is the object of their faith and hope; in what they believe: the God of love. His love for them will not let them go. We don’t look to our faith or hope or anything in us but to him who loves with an everlasting love which provides for us what his justice demands of us.

Here in chapter three of Hosea God demonstrates this love for us. He uses parabolic language to show his elect their relationship with him. Hosea in the Hebrew means Savior. He is a type of the anti-type, Christ. Gomer in the Hebrew means consummate. She was a consumed woman with her many so called lovers. She was a type of the anti-type, the remnant according to the election of grace; the church.

This prophecy unveils to God’s elect of the mystery of godliness.

Read Hosea 3:1. *“Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.”*

Here we see the love of God for his people. Why would God order Hosea to marry an adulteress?

Read Hosea 1:2. *“The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.”* Why would God order Hosea to marry an idolater, when in 2 Corinthians 6:14 he says; *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?”* **Read Hosea 3:1.** *“Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.”* Why would God command Hosea to love a woman totally consumed with false religion? *“Flagons of wine”* has reference to drunkenness on the wine of false religion by those *“who drink iniquity like water.”* *“Flagon”* means unmixed, undiluted. Most in false religion love to mix works and grace. Gomer loved her wine, (religion) straight out of the bottle, unmixed, strictly works. How could a holy God who abhors sin command Hosea to marry a drunkard, an idolater and an adulterer? Did he have a choice? *“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Until regeneration even the elect are idolaters and adulterers and drunkards.

So, what did Gomer have going for her? One thing. She was beloved of God. **Read Hosea 3:1.** *“Then said the Lord to me, go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend.”* She had a friend. Friend means husband. Her friend was her husband, Hosea. Hosea means Savior. Hosea loved her though *“she was an adulteress.”* Hosea loved Gomer like God loved Israel. **(according, verse 1c)** Her friend was none other than God the Son to whom she had been betrothed forever. All this pictures in types The Father’s relationship with the remnant according to the election of grace. His love for the church never waned because of her sin. The people of God are beloved of their friend, the Lord. His love is:

- a. Sovereign love.
- b. Eternal love.
- c. Unconditional love.
- a. Sovereign love. The Lord said go. **Hosea 3:1**

This God of whom we are beloved is a sovereign God; therefore his love is sovereign love. He is under obligation to and influenced by no one; especially to those whom he loves. His sovereign will is set and shall be accomplished in time as it already is in God’s mind.

In **Hosea 3:1** this sovereign God acts. *“Then said the Lord unto me.”*

Here God exercises his sovereignty in salvation. Then: When did God say, “Today is the day” to exercise his sovereignty in salvation? **Galatians 4:4**, *“But when the fullness of the time, set by God was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”* God alone determines the who, when, what, how and where of salvation. God alone determines the when of our regeneration. Unless and until he acts, we remain in darkness. *“Then said he unto me:”* God said to Christ, *“go yet love a woman.”* Go, love the one you have befriended. Jesus is the friend of sinners. The Pharisees in Matthew 11:19 accused Jesus of being the friend of publicans and sinners, and so he was. And thank God he is for that includes me. God’s elect can truly sing “what a friend we have in Jesus.” Proverbs 18:24; *“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”* Our sovereign God determined and Christ executes the Father’s will in the salvation of those he befriended, his elect. His love is sovereign love because he is sovereign. *“Jacob have I loved and Esau have I hated”* is the prerogative of our sovereign God. Our sovereign God, **Ephesians 1:4-5** *“in love predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”* **Read 1 Timothy 1:9.** *“Who has saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”* Without influence by the objects of his love, God sovereignly acts in sovereign love.

- a. God’s love is eternal love. **Hosea 3.** *“Go, yet love.”* Go, yet, don’t abandon those you have befriended. Love her still you have always loved, though an adulterer. How long has God

loved his elect? **Read Jeremiah 31:3.** *“I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.”* How long has God loved his People? Psalm 90:2 says, *“From everlasting to everlasting thou art God.”* God’s love has no beginning or ending. The Apostle John summed it up with these words in John 13:1 *“Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”* Since God is sovereign, his love is sovereign, since he is eternal, his love is eternal and since he is God his love is :

C. Unconditional. His love requires nothing of or from the sinner. If so his love would never be experienced because sinners have nothing to offer God in return but worship and praise and even these are God’s gifts to his people. Until their regeneration and conversion, even the remnant according to the election of grace, spiritual Israel looked to other gods and loved flagons of wine. 1 John 4:19 says, the only reason we love him in any degree is: *“We love him because he first loved us.”*

His command in Hosea 3:1 is to “love her according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel. (God’s elect) How did God love Israel? **Read Deuteronomy 7:7-8.** 7 *“The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”* Herein is love, not that we loved him but that he loved us (unconditionally) and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. **1. The people of God are beloved of God.**

2. The people of God are bought with a price. Hosea 3:2

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Paul writes, *“You are not your own, for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”*

How much is a sinner worth to God? What is the cost of redemption? *“What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Jesus declares in Matthew 16:26; that, *“if he should gain the whole world, it would not be enough.* In the purchase of the elect we find these questions answered.*

Read Hosea 3:2 *“So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver and for a homer of barley and a half homer of barley.”*

*Who bought Gomer? Her husband, Hosea. Christ. He is the only one who could redeem his wife. (The Church, the Bride of Christ) Remember, she has been betrothed to him forever. Christ obligated himself to her purchase in the everlasting covenant of grace. Had Christ not bought her, he would be the biggest imposter who ever lived and she would be without hope because, (Acts 4:12) *“There is no other name under heaven, given among men whereby we must be saved.”*

*I bought her to me. I didn't save her and abandon her to the world. I gathered her under my wing like a hen gathers her chicks. Not only did I redeem her, said Christ in Hebrews 13:5, "*I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.*" The people of God stand unchangeable in Christ.

* From whom did he redeem her, the one who held her hostage. She was in bondage to the law of God. The penalty for adultery was death by stoning. Gomer, ignorant of the fact that her sin was charged to Christ her Surety went about seeking to establish a righteousness of her own. (Romans 10) Heb 2:15 tells us that Christ took on humanity, body and soul to deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. This fear is brought about by our thinking we are obligated to keep the law of God for acceptance before God. The debt to law and justice she thought she owed had been charged to her surety and never was her obligation for payment. In regeneration and conversion the veil is lifted from our eyes and we are made to see the work finished and Christ's righteousness already imputed to us. If Christ bought Gomer to himself, "*who can lay anything to the charge of God's elect?*"

*What is the price of redemption? **Hosea 3:2**

What did Hosea pay for Gomer's redemption?

Fifteen pieces of silver and 1 1/2 homers of barley.

The number fifteen is a multiple of five and three. Three is the number of divine perfection. Five is the number for grace. Fifteen therefore specifically refers to acts of divine perfection. What better illustration than the saving of God's elect? God, who declared "*the soul that sinneth, it shall surely die,*" also declares that he justifies the ungodly. How so? Based on a divinely perfect salvation that is of grace alone.

Fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and half of barley, though small in value by today's standards is, to God's people of immeasurable worth because it satisfied God. How does silver and barley satisfy God's law and justice? Silver and barley are at opposite ends of the value spectrum. Silver is the possession of nobility; barley, the sustenance of servants. Silver represents purity. Barley represents poverty. It was reserved for servants and livestock. Both make up Christ's sacrifice for sin. "*Though he was rich,(silver) yet for our sakes he became poor.*" (barley) Fifteen pieces of silver represent his Deity, his divine perfection. He is God the Son, very God of very God.

But he is man. Barley represents his humanity and humility in condescending from the throne in heaven to take into union with his deity, true sinless humanity. He made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant. He offered his sinless humanity (his barley), upon the altar of his Deity (silver). He the King of Kings and Lord of Lords became the servant of Jehovah to secure the elect's salvation. It took infinite Deity and true sinless humanity, body and soul to answer for our sins. The homer of barley represents his humanity. The half- homer represents his humanity cursed because he hung on a tree.

The law requires more than we could ever pay. It requires perfect satisfaction to law and justice; perfect continual obedience from the cradle to the grave and eternal death by a suitable substitute for one infraction of the law. An eternity of suffering in hell by the sinner would leave us no closer to satisfying law and justice than the day we began payment because we are sinners. A sinner has nothing to give in exchange for his soul. Even the small amount of 15 shekels of silver and a homer and a half homer of barley is more than the sinner can pay because it represents infinite payment.

But, sinners have a friend, someone who can pay and did pay. His name is Hosea, Savior, Jesus . He, the God-man is the one Substitute who is able to render perfect satisfaction to the law of God. He fulfilled every jot and tittle of the law. He was without sin, a lamb without spot, pure as silver. He knew no sin but by imputation. Therefore he is the only suitable Substitute able to offer the one sacrifice for sins; his own body on the tree. He paid for our redemption with his life.

Said he in Hosea 3:2, *“So I bought her to me.”* I paid the redemption price for her. I paid the law of God all my people owed toward its satisfaction. God’s elect are not our own for we are bought with a price. That price: the precious blood of the Christ *“who without spot offered himself to God.”* He offered the only acceptable sacrifice to God, his silver and his barley, His infinite Deity upon the Altar of his humanity.

“I bought her to me.” By one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. **Read 1 Peter 1:18-19.** *“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:”* He is the Lord of glory and the Lamb of God, Potentate and pauper. **The people of God are bought with a price.**

3. The people of God are begotten of God. Hosea 3:3-5.

Scripture calls Jesus the only begotten son of God, one of a kind. He is that ðcorn of wheatö fallen into the ground that brings forth much fruit. 1 Peter 1:3 calls the elect öbegotten of God,ö born again of God. As sons of God, God’s people shall remain faithful to Christ because he will not let us go. **Read Hosea 3:3,** *“And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee)* It is impossible for Christ to lose one the Father gives him. **I will be also for thee.** If God be for us

Hosea 3:4-5, 4 *“For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:*

5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.” Though national Israel would be chastised for their sin with captivity to Babylon, and that for many days, yet a **remnant** would return to Israel and (V-5) *“seek the Lord their God and David their King, (Christ) and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.”*

That fear is a reverential respect for the honor of Gods redemptive glory in Christ given to spiritual Israel, Jew and gentile in the latter days (church age). This is so sure and certain to happen because of God’s promise and Christ’s sacrifice. **Read Luke 1:31-33.** *“And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus, 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33, And he shall reign over the house of Jacob (Jacob have I loved) for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”* Christ as the son of David is the head of his kingdom, the church. In his office as king he rules and reigns over all his possessions to insure they receive all the benefits and blessings of his work to save them and God has chosen the foolishness of preaching to deliver the good news to them.

One by one, day after day they return under the call of the gospel, which is not a promise to save you if you meet some condition but a declaration that **God’s people are beloved of God, bought with a price and begotten of God again to a lively hope**, by Him who said in Hosea **2:23**; *“And I will sow her unto me in the earth: and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, thou art my people, and they shall say, thou art my God.”*

What a blessing from God to be the people of God.

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