

Series: Isaiah  
Title: Redemption by Christ our Covenant  
Text: Isaiah 49: 9  
Date: November 15, 2012  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

**Isaiah 49: 8 Thus saith the LORD...I will...give THEE [CHRIST] for a COVENANT of THE PEOPLE, [GOD'S ELECT] to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;**

A covenant is a mutual agreement between two parties. Certain conditions must be met with the promise of certain rewards given. Each party must fulfill his respective conditions in order for the reward to be given.

God made a covenant with man in Adam—but in Adam we failed. That covenant of works is null and void. In Adam all died. None of us, born of Adam, can do anything whereby holy God will receive us. There is none righteous no not one.

**Illustration:** Imagine someone covered in oil attempting to make a snow white wedding dress. Sin is like oil. It blackens every sinner's heart along with every thought, word and deed. We cannot put our dirty hands to the work of making the necessary wedding garment. Christ by himself has made the wedding garment for his elect bride--THE PEOPLE—v8 **Thus saith the LORD...I will...give THEE [CHRIST] for a COVENANT of THE PEOPLE, [GOD'S ELECT]**

**Proposition:** Christ sets his people free from the power of sin and death.

**Isaiah 49: 9: That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves.**

**Title: Redemption by Christ our Covenant**

## **I. THE PRISONERS (read v9)**

**All whom Christ saves are guilty prisoners.**

We did the crime and are guilty by Adam the transgression of our first Representative and by our own sin.

In addition, all whom Christ saves are born in a prison cell. We got our sin nature from Adam. Our sin nature holds us in chains which no man can break. It is like solitary confinement, complete darkness, no windows to let in light. That is what the flesh, the sin-nature, is.

**Illustration:** If you were born free and later locked away for your crimes then you would know the difference between freedom and imprisonment. But if you are conceived and born in prison, never knowing anything but the total darkness of your prison cell, you would not know the difference between prison and liberty. That is the case with all God's elect as we are born into this world—we are conceived in sin, we are born into a prison cell and because the darkness of solitary confinement is all we have ever known, we do not know the difference between freedom and imprisonment.

Sinner, you boast of your free will—that you can accept or reject Christ at will. **But listen very carefully:** a sinner under the power of his sin-nature has as much freedom as a prisoner in solitary confinement. He can tell himself and others his will is free, that he can do whatever he wants when he wants. Indeed, he can stand, walk around, lay down when he will but only within the confines of his prison cell. A sinner dead in sin is bound by his sin nature. You can only do what your sinful nature allows you to do.

Jeremiah 13: 23: Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

Isaiah 1:5: Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

Sinner, you are in prison on death row and too blind in sin to know it.

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

But God has sent the Deliverer, Christ Jesus his Son, to purchase liberty for those given him, his elect, loved from everlasting.

Psalm 102: 20:...to loose those that are appointed to death.

Isaiah 42:7: To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

**II. CHRIST IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE EVERLASTING COVENANT OF GRACE.**--Notice this key word in **v9: That Thou MAYEST...**God gave Christ for a covenant of the people, **that thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth.** The word “can” means ability; the word “may” means consent.

### **That Thou Mayest**

Christ is God who “can” do whatsoever pleases him. But God can do nothing contrary to his holy, righteous, just character. Therefore, Christ cannot set guilty sinners free without the full consent of divine justice.

**Illustration:** In the old western’s the bandit’s, the outlaws, would come under cover of darkness, tie a rope to the prison bars on the window and bust their friends out.

Christ did not come to make a prison break, to bust his elect out of prison. Christ came to establish the righteousness of God—to perform the work to free the guilty elect child of God in mercy but to do it legally, in perfect justice.

### **Christ’s Mediatorial Work**

Christ is God and Man in one person who represented God and who represented his elect who are flesh and blood.

1 Timothy 2:5: For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

As the Son of God he fulfilled the conditions required so that God could be both just and the Justifier of his elect. He bore the wrath of justice and justified his people.

As the Son of Man he fulfilled the conditions required to make each of elect child the righteousness of God. Christ fulfilled the law for his people then was made sin and stood guilty in place of each of the convicted criminals God gave him to save. By bearing our sin God justly executed the death sentence due to his people upon Christ justifying his people from our crimes. Now all for who Christ died have been reconciled to God. So by the finished work of Christ the Substitute, God is just to show mercy and save his people.

Psalm 85: 10: Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

Galatians 3: 13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:...

Now Christ has the full consent of divine justice—**that thou MAYEST say to the prisoners, Go forth.**

**III. CHRIST IS THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT--V9: that THOU [CHRIST] mayest SAY to the prisoners, Go forth. to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves.**

God gave Christ Jesus the honor of bringing the good news to each one for whom obtained atonement.

**Remember, his elect are born in prison.**

Though full atonement—free justification—has been accomplished by Christ, until born again, those for whom he did it are yet dead in sin: in the prison cell, in darkness, shackled by our sin-nature.

In that state we don't even know we are prisoners much less know our need of Christ. That is true of the spit-shined religious moralist as much as the drunk passed out in a gutter. Unless the Spirit of God regenerates a sinner by the Light of the gospel shining in our hearts, we have no idea we are on death row.

Like so many in our penitentiaries, you go on claiming your innocence, that you are wrongfully charged. Or you keep looking back to some decision. If you have to look to anything you have done or abstained from, rather than Christ, you need to be delivered from the darkness of that prison. But sadly you love the dark prison cell.

John 3: 19: And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20: For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

**Note:** Please don't misunderstand me, sinners are not passive in regeneration, sinners actively fight against God with every fiber of their being.

**Application:** BELIEVER, we so often find ourselves in captivity, too. "When I would do good, I see a law in my members bringing me into captivity to the law of sin an death. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death." (Rom 7)

Those of you have been made honest by grace can say with me, that is exactly the way it is. Let the pretenders pretend—we know it is so. "If Christ be in you the body is dead because of sin." (Rom 8)

But thanks be to God he has given Christ a Covenant of the people so Christ our Light brings the light of the message of redemption-accomplished to each of those for whom he accomplished it, drawing us to himself. And he keeps doing it.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

**Christ Comes by the Spirit of God**

Christ prays the Father who sends God the Holy Spirit. Thereby, Christ comes to each of his people in our dark cell of sin and death and speaks the gospel in power, saying, **to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves.**

There is the evil, unjust prison warden called the Devil. He influences many to keep you in prison. There may be evil false preachers keeping guard over Christ's people—the guard has to live in the prison too—Christ is able to set them free. Your fellow inmates—lost friends and family—urge you to stay in the prison cell—urge to listen to them and ignore the gospel. Then there is your own desperately deceitful and wicked heart. **BUT CHRIST BINDS THE STRONGMAN.**

By the regenerating of God the Holy Spirit his Light creates spiritual life and light. He makes us, see our awful condition, our need: death row, guilty, nothing we can do to save ourselves. He brings us to cry out for mercy—for pure undeserved mercy! And he hears the cry he put in our hearts.

Psalm 69:33: For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners.

Then he speaks his gospel into our hearts and it comes as the best news a prisoner on death row could ever hear.

#### **Illustration: Barrabas**

By his own blood, Christ has obtained not just pardon, but a complete eradication of any record of our sin. He makes us know God is as satisfied with his redeemed as he is with his own Son. There is now no more offering for sin—Christ has done it all! You hear the locks open, the chains hit the floor and he gives the command: **v9: “Go forth! show yourself!”**

His power makes us willing. We come trembling out of the dark, corner of our prison cell and step into his light and he receives us gladly with rejoicing. In place of our dirty prison jumpsuit, he clothes us in the pristine garment of his eternal righteousness. He pulls us to his breast; he embraces us in his everlasting arms; he brings us into the sweet liberty of his unchanging grace.

John 8:36: If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Zechariah 9: 12: Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee;

You hear other inmates yet in their cells, crying unfair! But he came to you! He did this for you. The most undeserving on the whole cell block. Now you no longer shout unfair because you know you didn't deserve to be freed—we did the crime and but for his blood, we would have done the time. So instead, you rejoice in him. And you don't have to be bribed by the preacher to come out of the prison and follow him the rest of your days, you delight to follow this one who set you free.

**V. THIS WILLINGNESS IS BECAUSE CHRIST HIMSELF BECOMES OUR COVENANT. V8: I will give thee for a covenant of the people,...**

#### **Christ is our Covenant**

When Christ is formed in his people, Christ himself is ours. Oh, Selah! Believer, take time to really think about what that means. Christ, and all that he is, is ours! Every virtue Christ is, is ours. Every holy, righteous thought, word and deed which Christ is, is ours. His death, burial and resurrection is ours. His acceptance with God is ours. His immortality and security is ours. His beauty and glory is ours. His peace is ours. His

comfort is ours. CHRIST HIMSELF IS GOD'S FREE GIFT TO EACH ONE OF YOU HERE IN WHOM CHRIST HAS BEEN FORMED—**Christ Himself is ours eternally! Christ shall never be taken from us.**

Romans 11:29: For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

Now we praise only him, now we cease crying up our works and our goodness, now we cry,

Psalm 107:15: Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! 16: For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.

Who shall deliver me from this body of death! I thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord. One day soon, he shall deliver us into the glorious liberty of the sons of God free from all darkness into the glory of his Light! The sufferings of this world aren't worthy to be compared to that!

Notice all of this because God gave his Son—v8—**I will give thee for a Covenant of the people**

2 Corinthians 9:15: Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!

Amen!