Purchased*

Act 20:27-31 (27) For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.
(28) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood**.
(29) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.
(30) Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.
(31) Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.
At the very heart of the Christian gospel is the bloody death of Jesus Christ, purchasing immeasurable blessings of a new and incorruptible life for all who believe in Him. However, a mere belief in Him is not what the Saviour intended as revealed in His words; If ye love me, keep my commandents (Jo 14:15).*"Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins." Turn with me to;*
Hebrews 9:22-26 (22) And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.
(23) It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.
(24) For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:
(25) Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;
(26) For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
How then, do we receive remission of sins? After Christ had paid the cost of redemption, on the day of Pentecost came the Apostles exclaiming to the world that now there is remission of sins. Some were amazed, and some doubted. About two thousand years later there are people who are amazed and some doubt the

Apostolic message to repent and be baptized, crucify the old man of sin in Christ, Turn to;

Romans 6:4-6 (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
(5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
(6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Christ was ever mindful of the fact that it was only through His sacrificial death that He could offer redemption. Turn to;

John 12:23-26 (23) And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.
(24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.
(25) He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.
(26) If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Just as a grain of wheat can only produce life in abundance if it is buried in the earth, so Christ could only accomplish the fruit of new life for His followers if He died and was buried. By God's design, new life was brought forth in great abundance by the willing death of the spotless, sacrificial Lamb of God. It is beyond controversy, then, that willing death was the necessary means for the accomplishment of the redemption which leads to life. God never intended for every Christian to be martyred, but the life which Christians live in the flesh to be by faith in the Son of God, committed to the gospel. That life need not necessarily end in extreme persecution or martyrdom, tho some have. We are a body, and have different functions and callings. But whether we are called to lay down our lives in martyrdom or to lay down our lives in a long wearisome service that sees no bloody end, let us strive to be vitally connected to the Church which was purchased with the blood of the Saviour. Do we realize the cost? Find out

in;
Matthew 27:26-36 (26) Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.
(27) Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.
(28) And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.
(29) And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!
(30) And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.
(31) And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.
(32) And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.
(33) And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,
(34) They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.
(35) And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.
(36) And sitting down they watched him there;
Christ was severely whipped. His rib bones became exposed during the scourging that was inflicted upon Him before crucifixion (Psalm 22:17). The Roman scourge, also called the "flagrum" was a short whip made of two or three leather (ox-hide) thongs or ropes connected to a handle. The leather thongs were knotted with a number of small pieces of metal, usually zinc and iron, attached at various intervals. Scourging would quickly remove the skin. Sometimes the Roman scourge contained a hook at the end and was given the terrifying name "scorpion." The victim was made to stoop which would make deeper lashes from the shoulders to the waist. According to Jewish law the number of stripes was forty less one (Deuteronomy 25:3). Nevertheless, scourging by the Romans was a more severe form of punishment and there ***was no legal***

limit *to the number of blows. Jesus was exposed to the Gentile law of scourging, not the law of Deuteronomy. We do not know how many lashes Jesus received but he must have been near death as he lingered on the cross for only about 6 hours before He died. Deep lacerations, torn flesh, exposed muscles, bones and excessive bleeding would leave the victim "half-dead." Often the result of this cruel form of punishment was death, though it was necessary to keep the victim alive to be brought to public humiliation on the cross. The Centurion in charge would order the "lictors" to halt the flogging when the victim was near death. It was in this condition that Jesus was hung on the cross where He paid the final installment for redemption and became our High Priest;*
Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (Hebrews 3:1).
About 1500 B.C., God imparted the Law of Moses to the Israelites as the covenant requirements that would guide the nation of Israel through its national existence. This law included provision for the High Priest, the first being Aaron, the brother of Moses, commissioned by God Himself (Exodus 28). On the Day of Atonement (yom kippur), he alone entered the Holy of Holies within the Tabernacle/Temple to make atonement for himself and all the people (Leviticus 16). Bible typology—another bona fide proof of Bible inspiration—portrays Jesus as our High Priest. Very uniquely and critically, Jesus performs for Christians, parallel functions to the High Priest that absolutely must be performed if we are to be permitted to be saved to live eternally with Deity in heaven. Among the articles of clothing stipulated by our God for the High Priest was the skillfully woven "tunic of fine linen thread"; And thou shalt embroider the coat of fine linen, and thou shalt make the mitre of fine linen, and thou shalt make the girdle of needlework (Exodus 28:39). *According to Josephus, this clothing item was seamless: (book 3. chapter 7. paragraph 4:203). Coincidental? Not likely, John went out of his way to flag the point, that the Roman soldiers gambled for the seamless tunic of the Messiah—a tunic that subtly signaled His redemptive role as the one to make atonement for the world in the very act of dying on the cross. The handling of the clothes of Jesus Christ on the*

occasion of His crucifixion demonstrates the inspiration of the Bible and the divine origin of the Christian religion. Turn with me to;
John 19:23-24 (23) Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.
(24) They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.
The tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. The soilders said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," fulfilling the scripture which says: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things. The tunic was indivisible and unique from the other clothes, and very likely more valuable. It stood alone as seamless and would need to be awarded to a single soldier only, rather than being ripped into four pieces. Hence, they agreed to gamble in order to decide ownership of the tunic. Observe carefully that these four unnamed Roman military men, who just happened to be assigned crucifixion duty that day, and just happened to have charge of the condemned Jesus of Nazareth, who happened that day to wear a seamless tunic, were operating solely on their own impulses. They were not Jews. Most likely they were not familiar whatsoever with Jewish Scripture. They were not controlled by any external source. No unseen or mysterious force took charge of their minds, no disciple whispered in their ears to cause them to robotically or artificially fulfill a prophecy. Yet, with uncanny precision, words written by King David a millennium earlier came to stunning fulfillment—the clothes were to be divided into separate parts, yet lots would be cast over His vesture. The Roman soldiers unwittingly fulfilled the predictions of ancient Scripture in what to them were no more than mere casual, insignificant actions associated with the execution of their military duty. This was the purpose of God in fulfilling His prophecy, I will build my Church. *Please turn to;*

Matthew 16:13-19 (13) When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
(14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
(15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
(16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
(19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
On the Day of Pentecost, Peter announced to the gathered crowd that Jesus was reigning at that moment over His kingdom, for King David had so prophesied:
Acts 2:29-32 (29) Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.
(30) Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, **he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne**;
(31) He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
(32) This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
Paul made the same point in his letter to the;
Ephesians 1:19-23 (19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
(20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
(21) Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

(22) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
(23) Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.
The Bible repeatedly affirms that Jesus is reigning and ruling now over His kingdom.
One feature of the premillennial dispensationalist's claim is that the kingdom is yet future, and that Jesus is not reigning now, but will commence His reign in His kingdom when He returns in the future to establish it in Jerusalem. However, several passages cannot be harmonized with such a view. First, the Bible teaches that the kingdom exists now, and has existed since Apostolic times. While Jesus was on Earth, He went to Galilee, "preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe in the gospel (Mark1:15). *He also stated:* Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power Mark 9:1). *In fact, Christians have been in the past, and are at the present, being translated into the kingdom, do not take my word, turn to;*
Colossians 1:12-13 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
(13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
To insist that the kingdom is yet to be established is failing to recognize that the Bible plainly declares that the kingdom already exists on Earth. Jesus predicted that He would build His "church" and give to Peter the keys of the "kingdom" (Matthew 16:18-19). Jesus did not build one institution and then give Peter the keys to a different institution.
To become a citizen of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14-15), one must be "born again", as Jesus explained to Nicodemus before His crucifixion, please turn to;
John 3:1-8 (1) There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:
(2) The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
(3) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
(4) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?
(5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
(6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
(7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.
(8) The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
The analogy of the wind is a perfect example of born of the Spirit. When one is born again, transformation occurs, this we can witness, but we cannot tell whence it comes or whither it goes. We only know that it has happened by witnessing the obedience of the believer. God said, this is my Son, hear ye him. *God's Son said,* he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16).
Christ was sold out by Judas, wrongly accused by false witnesses, rejected by the chief priests and elders and convicted by a judge who knew He was innocent. It was a sham recorded in;
Matthew 26:59-66 (59) Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;
(60) But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,
(61) And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.
(62) And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?
(63) But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.
(64) Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.
(65) Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now

ye have heard his blasphemy.
(66) What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. *The members of the Sanhedrin could not put Jesus to death themselves, but had to request instead that Pontius Pilate, the Roman procurator, do so on their behalf, they should have known the Messiah was in their midst, for that was the exact prophecy of Moses.* The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be (Genesis 49:10). *The scepter was a staff kept in possession of the elders of each of the twelve tribes of Israel and engraved with the name of the tribe. It symbolized the national sovereignty and judicial power of God's people. As long as the scepter was in place, the Jews could govern themselves, excommunicate one of their own, and even administer corporeal punishment including the death penalty. Interestingly, the scepter remained in place even while the Jews were in captivity under the Babylonians and the Medes and Persians. It also remained in place for a time under Roman captivity—until the Emperor instituted procurators. When that occurred, even first-century Jews recognized the departure of the scepter, because the Romans around 11 A.D. took away the Jews' right to administer capital punishment. Yet the Jews ignored the voice of God and demanded the death sentence for His only begotten Son. Woe to those individuals who ignore the powerful evidence that God has provided as proof of the truth in His Son, Jesus Christ! Who ignore the ordinance of baptism, who ignore faith in Christ that is the effect of belief. It's not who you are, or where you have been, it's where you are going that counts and it is an eternal decision based upon faith that cometh by hearing the word of God. Do you believe? Do you have faith unto repentance? If so, come and by faith confess the Lord and be baptized into Him for remission of sins. For other reasons prayer is available, come while we gently persuade with song.*

This message approved by
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