

# THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

## “The Purchase of Blood”

### Introduction

Hebrews 9:11-12

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. KJV<sup>1</sup>

*In future teachings, I hope to delve into some of the technicalities of what it means to carry the Blood into the holy place. To do that, we are going to have to get into the Law. Jesus fulfilled the Law. If we are ignorant of the Law, we are then largely ignorant of what He accomplished. This section of Scripture has particular reference to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Only on that day in the Tabernacle and Temple system did the blood of sacrificial animals make it all the way in to the holy of holies. But the point of sharing this section now is to highlight that He has obtained for us eternal redemption by His Blood.*

*What does it mean to redeem? The Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary defines “redeem” as follows:*

1. a: to buy back : repurchase b: to get or win back
2. to free from what distresses or harms: as a: to free from captivity by payment of ransom

*Understanding the purchase of Blood is Christianity 101. These are foundational truths of our faith that we need to understand. If you have been in the faith for a goodly amount of time, you might not find much new here. But it grieves me not to put you in remembrance of these things. And as we proceed forward, you may find that your foundation is in need of shoring up.*

*We are talking about redemption. And redemption means to “buy back.” This has a different nuance than simply buying. To buy is to purchase something from someone else, an exchange of property (be it money for goods or barter) between parties. But to “buy back” implies that one had ownership over it at one point in time. An example may help to explain this difference.*

*I can go to a car dealership and buy the automobile of my choice so long as I have the money. This is a straight purchase. The dealership owns the car. I give them the money they request and they transfer the ownership of the car to me. Now the title deed names me as the owner. But suppose I owned a car and it was parked illegally. A towing company contracted by the city may now tow my vehicle to an impound lot. Does my car belong to them? No, but they do have possession of it. For me to get my car back, I would have to pay a fine. By paying the fine, I would “buy back” or “redeem” my vehicle.*

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<sup>1</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

*What if the towing company wasn't reputable? Would that matter to the judge? No so long as I had parked illegally and had been towed for breaking the law. I could accuse the towing company of theft all I want. But I wouldn't get my car back until I paid the fine.*

Acts 20:28

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.

*God by His own blood purchase the church. The blood of Jesus Christ was the means of exchange. The word translated "purchased" is the Greek word peripoieomai and means "to save for oneself." This word is also used in Luke 17:33.*

Luke 17:33

Whosoever shall seek to save [*peripoieomai* – to save or keep for himself] his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

*When we talk of purchasing, as of buying out in a straight transaction, we think of buying someone's property so that we may have it. When this idea is brought into the concept of redemption, it leads to the speculation of God buying us from someone. But bought from whom? A common understanding is that God bought us from the devil. But is this what the Scripture teaches us? To find out, we must first reexamine what the price of sin is.*

## **I. The Price of Sin**

### **1. The Wages of Sin**

Romans 6:23

For the wages<sup>2</sup> of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*In this verse, we have the dichotomies of death and life, wages and gift. Life is given, death is earned. What did any of us do that brought us life? Nothing, we played no part in it. This makes our life a gift. Eternal life is no different. It is a gift. If we worked for it, it wouldn't be a gift. But death is earned. This tells us that the natural order of things is life. We did nothing of ourselves to be alive. Our life is a gift from God. Death we have to earn. And how do we earn it? Through sin.*

### **2. The Day You Eat Thereof**

*In the Garden, the Lord gave Adam the one law he had to abide by.*

Genesis 2:17

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

*Breach of this law had a sentence, "Thou shalt surely die." The doctrine of sin is plain from the beginning: the wages of sin is death. Only one thing would bring death to Adam and that one thing was sin, the sin of breaching God's command.*

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<sup>2</sup> Greek *opsonion* – a soldier's pay.

*Now, in the law it isn't required for me to directly kill someone to be convicted of murder. For instance, were I to cut the break lines of somebody's car with malice aforethought and that certain somebody got in the car and had an accident and died, I would be guilty of murder. I would have murdered the person subtly. If someone discovered and could prove that my malicious and subtle act caused the death, I could be convicted of murder.*

*One doesn't have to be violent to be a murder either. Say I invited my neighbor over for a nice cup of coffee. My neighbor comes and drinks what he thinks is a good cup of java. But unbeknownst to him, I've poisoned the cup. That which he thought was good actually contained a poison that killed him. I would have killed him by deception. I lied to him, presenting something to him as good that was actually deadly.*

*This is exactly what the devil did and does. He murders through subtlety and deception.<sup>3</sup>*

Genesis 3:4-5

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

*This is an out-and-out lie. God said, "thou shalt surely die." And surely die he did. Those who argue that Adam didn't die in the day because he lived 930 years (and most of those years were outside of the garden) don't understand two important things: 1) how God keeps time, 2) what death means. Man died that day. The day he sinned, his spiritual eyes closed in death. Nine centuries and change later, Adam "gave up the ghost" and his soul went to sheol, hell. And his body went to the ground and became dust "for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."<sup>4</sup>*

*But was he alone in this calamity or was it assisted suicide? No, it was worse than that. It was murder. This is why Jesus tells us that the devil is a murderer and a liar.*

➤ He is a liar.

John 8:44

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> He also enjoys violent crime, but usually through secondary agents. He is a coward that seldom does his own dirty work.

<sup>4</sup> Gen 3:19

<sup>5</sup> I have a personal suspicion that by this statement Jesus not only encompassed what occurred in the Garden, but also what happened in heaven. The lamentation against the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28 is certainly not addressed simply to an earthly king. It gives us glimpses into the devil's downfall. Among the crimes leveled against him was that he, by his many sins and dishonest trade, had desecrated his sanctuaries (Ezek. 28:18). We know he had been a covering cherub in heaven. Hebrews informs us that the true sanctuary in heaven was cleansed by the blood of Christ (Heb 10:23-26). This leads one to wonder: how did the hallowed halls of heaven become defiled?

*By lies and deception, the devil convinced Eve to commit spiritual suicide. That makes him a murderer.*

➤ He is a thief.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

*In the term “thief” is encompassed his work as a murderer, one who kills and destroys.*

### 3. The Power of Death

Hebrews 2:14-15

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

*Though the devil is a liar and a murderer, he had jurisdiction over the impound lot of life called death. Why do we suffer death? Because of sin. The wages of sin is death. We have to earn it. Not only did Adam earn death for all his progeny, his progeny (that's us) also brought death upon themselves by involvement in sin. As the psalmist said “We have sinned, even as our fathers did.”<sup>6</sup>*

*Sin is what gave satan the jurisdictional right of execution. Death was meted out because of sin. Sin against whom? Now we begin to look into what we were redeemed **from** and to whom the price was paid.*

Hebrews 2:16-18

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

*Matthew informs us that after His baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. I have never met anyone aside from Jesus who has been tempted by a personal and concrete revelation of the devil. Has the reader ever been taken by the devil and shown all the kingdoms of the world and been tempted with their ownership? What temptation have we had that has not been surpassed by the temptations that He endured?*

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<sup>6</sup> Ps. 106:6 NIV

*This is how the Lord began His campaign: a one-on-One encounter with the devil in the full anointing of the Holy Spirit. And He defeated him in absolute weakness, dejection, and death. Jesus was tempted in the context of the full spectrum of life, from the highest high to the lowest low. In the wilderness, the devil tempted Him not long after He had heard “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” On the cross, the devil tormented Him after He had uttered “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” In measure and respect, there is no temptation that we have undergone that He has not endured, and that without sin! We have never been so empowered that He was not more powerful still. We have never been so low that He had not been brought lower. As the Scripture says, He that ascended descended first into the lower parts of the earth.<sup>7</sup>*

*What a God we serve! What a High Priest serves us!*

## **II. The Payment for Sin**

*In the economy of God, the devil wound up being sin’s paymaster. Death is the paycheck for sin. But let us move on to a refinement of terms. Instead of being paid wages, let us think about the payment of fines.*

*When someone is caught by the police breaking a traffic law, they get a ticket that specifies the fine they must pay for breaking the law. If someone racks up a sizable enough fine and then refuses to pay (or is unable to pay), the state will then make them pay with their time. They can get sent to jail for failure to pay fines.*

*But there are crimes for which a fine can’t satisfy. For instance, if a murderer were simply given a monetary fine to pay, there aren’t many who would feel that justice had been served. Our own conscience and sense of justice demands something more: either the incarceration or execution of the perpetrator. This happens to be our condition before a holy God. His justice demands execution and incarceration for sin. And what is real death but an eternal incarceration away from God?*

*Why is hell an eternity away from God? On the surface, this might seem like cruel and unusual punishment. But it’s not. We need to think in legal and economic terms. We have already seen that if a man can’t pay a fine, he winds up paying with time. If the crime is serious enough, the imprisonment can be a life term. That may keep the criminal out of the society. But does it really pay his debt to society? No. If a man sins against God and dies without his fine being paid, he may be incarcerated for eternity. This will keep him from God, but it won’t pay his debt to God.*

*Suppose you had a fine to pay to the court and you didn’t have the cash. But you did have a credit card. Relieved and excited, you run to the court to pay your \$100 fine on the last possible day. But when they run your credit card, it’s denied. It seems that you are already \$200 over your limit! So the sheriff is called and you are hauled off to jail, now owing the \$200 you were overdrawn and the \$100 fine you couldn’t pay, plus a \$35 bank fee for trying to overdraw more! You’re in prison and in debt and presenting your credit card, regardless of how often you do it, is of no avail.*

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<sup>7</sup> Eph 4:10

*This is how it is with us. Our blood is spiritually bankrupt. It is under a sentence of death. If we give it to pay for our sin, we simply wind up overdrawn and incarcerated with no way out. This is why hell lasts forever. No amount of incarceration will pay the fine. We don't have the wherewithal to pay. But Jesus did.*

1. Not with Silver and Gold – 1 Pet 1:18

1 Peter 1:18

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;

*We were not redeemed with silver and gold. By referring to the traditions of the fathers, Peter is going to give us some real insight into the meaning of redemption. Redemption does not mean that the devil owned us and somehow Jesus paid the price to him to have us. No, satan wasn't holding the tab. God Almighty was holding the bill for our sin. And because man submitted himself to the authority of the devil by sin, the devil exercised the authority of death over mankind. And what kept man under that sentence of death was the fine that man could not pay.*

*To whom was the fine owed? God, the One offended. The one offended is the one to whom the price was owed. This is why hell lasts forever. No one can pay the price. Eternity won't pay it. Why? Because He is an eternal God. Our sin offended an eternal, holy, and righteous God.*

*We need to understand that the sin must be weighed in light of who is offended. Even civil law teaches us this lesson. If a person betrays a confidence, he may lose his friend. If he profiteers from divulging industry secrets, he may be incarcerated for insider trading. But if he betrays the security of his nation, he may be executed for treason. Please note that the act is the same: betrayal. But look at the difference in consequences! If we betray a private individual, we lose a friend (and make an enemy). If we betray our nation, we lose our life. Is not our God greater than any earthly government? What should be the punishment for betraying the Sovereign of the Universe?*

*We aren't left to wonder. The Lord showed us in living example even in His earthly ministry what the punishment of His betrayers would be.*

Matt 26:24

The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born .

*He spoke this of Judas who later committed suicide instead of receiving the Lord's payment for his sin. They day they gathered to vote on his replacement, Peter quoted from the 109<sup>th</sup> Psalm, indicating that it had been written prophetically about Judas. Following are some selections of Judas's sentence for betraying Jesus.*

Ps 109:6-8, 14-19

6 Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.

- 7 When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin.  
 8 Let his days be few; and let another take his office.  
 14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.  
 15 Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.  
 16 Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart.  
 17 As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him.  
 18 As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.  
 19 Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually.

*This was his lot, to be bound by a curse continually with the full weight of his wickedness, the sins of his mother, and the iniquities of his fathers wrapped about him in accusation.*

#### A. Money for Sin

*The Holy Spirit uses symbols, types, and analogies throughout Scripture to instruct us. Often times we will focus so much on the spiritual principle that these figures of speech teach us that we deny their practical application. One we are most guilty of treating this way is the correlation between offenses and money, debt and sin.*

*Jesus used financial debt as an illustration of sin (Matt. 6:12; 18:21-35). But financial debt can't be sin, right? Many say, "God allows me to be in debt." Sure He does, just like He allows us to be in sin. "God's way of supplying my need was to have the loan approved. It was His way of getting me over the bump." Sure, just like stealing bread is a starving man's way of getting over the bump!*

*Is debt sin? In and of itself, no. But there is a reason why God uses financial debt as an illustration of sin. Obviously, there is a connection between debt and sin. The real question isn't whether sin is debt, but rather what sin led us into debt. Was it presumption, impatience, greed, lust, worry, idolatry? Indebtedness is spoken of in Scripture as the result of sin and part of the curse (Deut. 28:44). Sin puts us in debt with God.*

*We understand this principle in human relations. If I break something of yours and can't fix it, it is incumbent upon me to replace it or give you its value in money. Why does this work? Why does this satisfy our sense of right? Because it is a system that God designed and uses to explain redemption to us.*

Exodus 21:28-30

- 28 If an ox gore a man or a woman, that they die: then the ox shall be surely stoned, and his flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be quit.

- 29 But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.
- 30 If there be laid on him a sum of money, then he shall give for the ransom of his life whatsoever is laid upon him.

*Here we have tort law in the Torah. If the man has been negligent by not restraining an ox that was known to be harmful and that ox kills someone, the owner and the ox are put to death. Verse 30 refers to fines imposed for bodily injury. Note what he gives the sum of money for: the ransom of his life! The implication is that if the man doesn't pay the fine, his life becomes forfeit.*

Exodus 21:31-32

- 31 Whether he have gored a son, or have gored a daughter, according to this judgment shall it be done unto him.
- 32 If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

*The fine was to be paid in silver. The liable party could pay a ransom for his soul with silver. This is why silver is called the redemption metal. In the Old Testament economy, a man could be redeemed with silver.*

#### B. The Enlistment of the Army

Exodus 30:11-12

- 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- 12 When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them.

*This was the numbering of the army of the Lord. As each man twenty or older was counted, he gave his ransom money that he might fight in the army of the Lord and not die (the payment was a ransom for their soul) and that no diseases or plague should come upon them.*

*We were not redeemed with silver. When we were redeemed by the Blood, we were bought into the army of God to make war on principalities and powers in a way that we should not die. Why? Because the ground that gives him power for death is sin and the Blood ransomed us from sin! So long as we stand on Blood soaked ground, the devil can't defeat us!*

Exodus 30:13-16

- 13 This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD.
- 14 Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD.

- 15 The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.
- 16 And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

*The silver was paid for atonement. It's a covering. They paid a price to God that they not die. What happened to the silver?*

C. The Foundation and Crown of the Tabernacle

Exodus 38:25-28

- 25 And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was an hundred talents, and a thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary:
- 26 A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men.
- 27 And of the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary, and the sockets of the vail; an hundred sockets of the hundred talents, a talent for a socket.
- 28 And of the thousand seven hundred seventy and five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, and overlaid their chapiters, and filleted them.

*The redemption price was used to craft the bases for the tabernacle and the chapiters for the pillars of the outer court. Redemption outlined the Tabernacle in the wilderness. As the children of Israel approached to worship, the silver caps on the pillars of the court would shine with the message of redemption. As they entered the courtyard and sacrificed, they could see the silver bases on the ground that the gold-covered boards of the tabernacle sat in. This silver would bear witness to the army of God as they worshipped that they were redeemed.*

*The silver was only a type of the Blood. All of redemption is outlined in blood. It is the basis of our redemption and its crowning achievement. As He bled from head to foot, we walk in the Blood and are covered by the Blood. And the army of God can stand before the throne of God in worship because Jesus made the way by His Blood! Praise God for His undying mercy and His goodness to mankind! What other God is like our God? Who else is mighty to save?*

2. By the Precious Blood – 1 Pet 1:19  
*We were not redeemed by silver.*

1 Peter 1:19-22

- 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,

- 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.
- 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

*It was the blood that redeemed us.*

*The Law and the Tabernacle system given to Israel left them with a constant cultural reminder of their debt of sin and the consequences of sin. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year cattle, sheep, goats, and doves beyond measure were slaughtered for the sins of the people. Wherever they camped and the worship center was set up, the ground became soaked with blood. The message was clear: sin brings death and without blood, there is no remission of sins.*

A. The Purpose of the Law

Romans 3:19-23

- 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.
- 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
- 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
- 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:
- 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

*The purpose of the law is to establish our guilt. It informs us unequivocally that no one is righteous and that we have all fallen short of the glory of God.*

B. The Propitiation of Blood

Romans 3:24-26

- 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

*God doesn't just point out our problem, He offers the solution. He set forth Christ Jesus as the propitiation for our sins. What does propitiation mean? I always thought it meant "payment." But it doesn't mean payment.*

### C. Propitiation, a Definition

*Propitiation is the noun form of propitiate. To propitiate means to conciliate an offended power, to appease. To conciliate means to overcome the distrust or animosity of someone.*

*Who had distrust and animosity toward us? God did. I thought God is love, you might say. He is. That doesn't mean He has to trust us. As a matter of fact, He knows us to be untrustworthy, which is why He swore by Himself!<sup>8</sup> God was the offended power. The offense toward us had to be appeased. This is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.*

### 3. Delivered from Darkness

Colossians 1:12-14

12 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:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

*We were bought from the impound lot, the power of darkness. It didn't own us, but it did have possession of us. There was a fine that had to be paid to redeem us. Jesus paid that price. Through the Blood of Jesus Christ, we have the forgiveness of sins, which is the very definition of redemption.*

## III. The Ransomed Soul

Ps 49:7-9

7 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him —

8 the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough —

9 that he should live on forever and not see decay. NIV

*We can't pay for our own sins. We can only receive the just penalty for our sin which is death. Think of death as a negative spiritual net worth caused by sin and life as a positive spiritual net worth granted by God. In and of ourselves, we have a negative net worth. If we die without Christ, the bank account of heaven shows us to be worse than paupers. It shows us to be debtors. And one can't pay off a debt with less than what is owed.<sup>9</sup>*

*Adam sinned and defiled his holy blood. He died in spiritual suicide. All his progeny inherited from him a life that was indebted to a holy God. There was no life left on earth that could pay the price, pay the penalty owed to God for the life he had lost. It would take a Life more powerful than that.*

*So, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross that by His Blood He might pay the fine needed from an offended God to appease, to atone, to bring back into fellowship that which was lost.*

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<sup>8</sup> Heb 6:13

<sup>9</sup> A worldly creditor may reduce your debt. But God's holiness and justice requires a full payment for sin.