

My Redeemer Lives!

Job 19:25, "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

First, "**I know**" – We can "know" not only by faith, but absolutely have confidence – we can have a thoroughly authenticated fact that our Redeemer is alive! The resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has been subjected to the most severe examination – tested to the limit – investigated by those who would seek to destroy the validity of Christ's resurrection, and proven to be true in every circumstance. It was the theme of the early church, who preached those who were alive when Jesus rose from the dead, and no one could disprove their declaration of Christ's resurrection. In fact, Jesus appeared at least twelve to fifteen times after His resurrection and before His ascension back into Heaven. He appeared under every conceivable condition and circumstance possible – inside, closed doors; outside, in the bright light of the sun; on sea shore, on mountain top, and on the road to Emmaus; He ate and talked with those who knew Him best and recognized Him as the Jesus, whom they knew before His resurrection. When His disciples proclaimed "*He is risen*" – no one could dispute their words! It was known far and wide as a proven fact by those who were alive at the time Christ's resurrection took place. Even those who hated Him and sought to destroy early Christianity, could not disprove that Jesus Christ, indeed, did rise from the dead.

A number of years ago an organization in England of agnostics and free-thinkers undertook to disprove the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ – the cornerstone of the Christian Church. They commissioned Lord Littleton and Gilbert West, two of the best known lawyers known at that time. When they met after their examination, Littleton and West said, "*We have taken the evidence in this case and have weighed it just as carefully as in any great case that we have had to deal with and have concluded that Jesus of Nazareth, who died on Calvary's cross and was buried in Joseph's tomb, got up out of that tomb on the third day just as the Scriptures say He did and we have accepted Him as our Savior and today are His disciples.*" – That's what I call an honest investigation!

I also know because of a personal experience. He is a daily companion with me – and I declare with Job, "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Second, "**Redeemer**" – The word, "redeemer" means, "*to deliver by payment of a price, to purchase out of the slave market.*"

I heard a story years ago that fascinated me. It was the story of a sailor who had served twenty years in the penitentiary. Sometime after his release from prison, he was walking along one of the streets of London where he met a bird-seller. The man had a great many birds in a cage that was on the corner of the sidewalk. The liberated prisoner, as he looked at the birds, thought of his one incarceration in the penitentiary. He went to the bird-seller and asked him the price of all the birds. When the price was named, the sailor handed the amount over and then, to the amazement of the man, he opened the door of the cage and set all the birds free. And as the birds flew away, they seemed to chirp, "*You have redeemed us!*"

The word, “redeem” comes from a word that means, “to buy out of the market place.” God had said, “The soul that sins shall die!” – [“death” being an eternal separation from God!] We, as sinner, were unable to pay the debt, the price demanded for our sin. But Jesus Christ “died in our place” He gave Himself a “ransom” for all mankind.

A Russian officer whose accounts could not be made to balance and who feared that the merciless dictatorship of the empire would allow no room for leniency or mercy in dealing with him. While hopelessly pouring over his balance sheet, and in despair of ever making up his deficiency, he wrote half inadvertently, almost unintentionally, on the page, “Who can make good this deficit?” He fell asleep.

The Czar, passing by, saw the sleeping officer, glanced curiously at the pages, and taking up the pen wrote underneath the question these words “I, even I, Alexander.”

Who is there among us that claims to be able to “redeem” himself – to pay the price for his sins?

History records that many slaves continued to live in slavery, even after Abraham Lincoln had proclaimed the emancipation of all slaves. I declared to you from the pages of God’s Word that you can be free – forever! You can say with me, “I know that my Redeemer lives!” Jesus Christ has borne your sins and you can be joined with Him by faith and today rejoice in the peace of God.

Third, “Liveth” – “I know that my Redeemer lives” were words, of course, from Job. It was not so much concerning Christ’s birth, as it was His resurrection. Ever feel that you just cannot live the life commanded in God’s Word? Well, none of us can, in ourselves. But, we can let Jesus Christ, Who redeemed us, live His Life through us.

A young man in prison, said to the visiting minister, “My difficulty begins in four days. I was converted in prison and in four days I am to be paroled and that means that I will face the old gang, live in the old neighborhood, and meet with the old surroundings that caused me downfall.” The minister reminded him that the old surroundings would have no dominion over him if he bore in mind that Christ lives – if he would look to the risen Christ of whom he might appeal day by day. If he would do this, he would be given strength for every circumstance, for every need.

Martin Luther, had moment of despondency, he writes that he would dispel and chase away this feeling with the word “*vivat*” – the Latin word for “He lives!”

I challenge you, this Easter, to engrave the words. “He lives” in your heart, because to lose sight of Christ’s Life within us, is to lose hope. A living Christ means salvation, a power-sustaining Companion, divine counsel, eternal habitation and never-ending happiness.