



A Ransom for Many

"...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." – Matthew 20:28

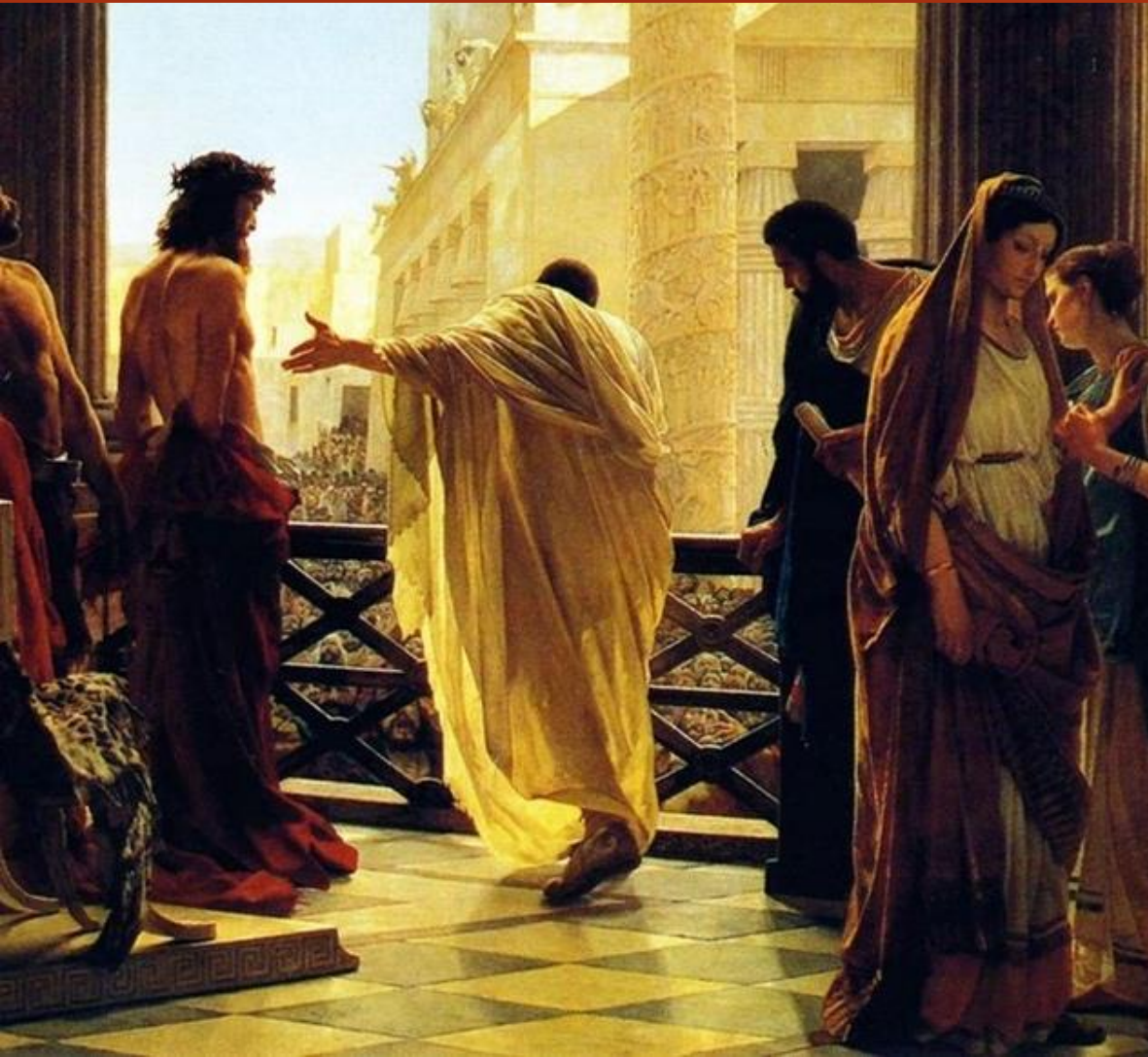


Introduction

- ▶ “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give His life a ransom for many.**”
(Matt. 20:27-28)
- ▶ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and **redemption**— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” (1 Cor. 1:30-31)



The Redeemer



- “Thus says the LORD, your **Redeemer**, The Holy One of Israel.” (Is. 43:14)
- “Thus says the LORD, **The Redeemer** of Israel, their **Holy One**, To Him whom man **despises**, To Him whom **the nation abhors**, To the Servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the LORD who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You.” (Is. 49:7)

A Ransom

- What is a ransom?
- A price paid to rescue someone or something from captivity
- Someone's life is in jeopardy
- Hostages





The Fall

➤ “Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and **have eaten from the tree** of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "**Cursed is the ground** for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; **For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.**" (Gen. 3:17-19)

- Cursed nature
- Sin
- Death



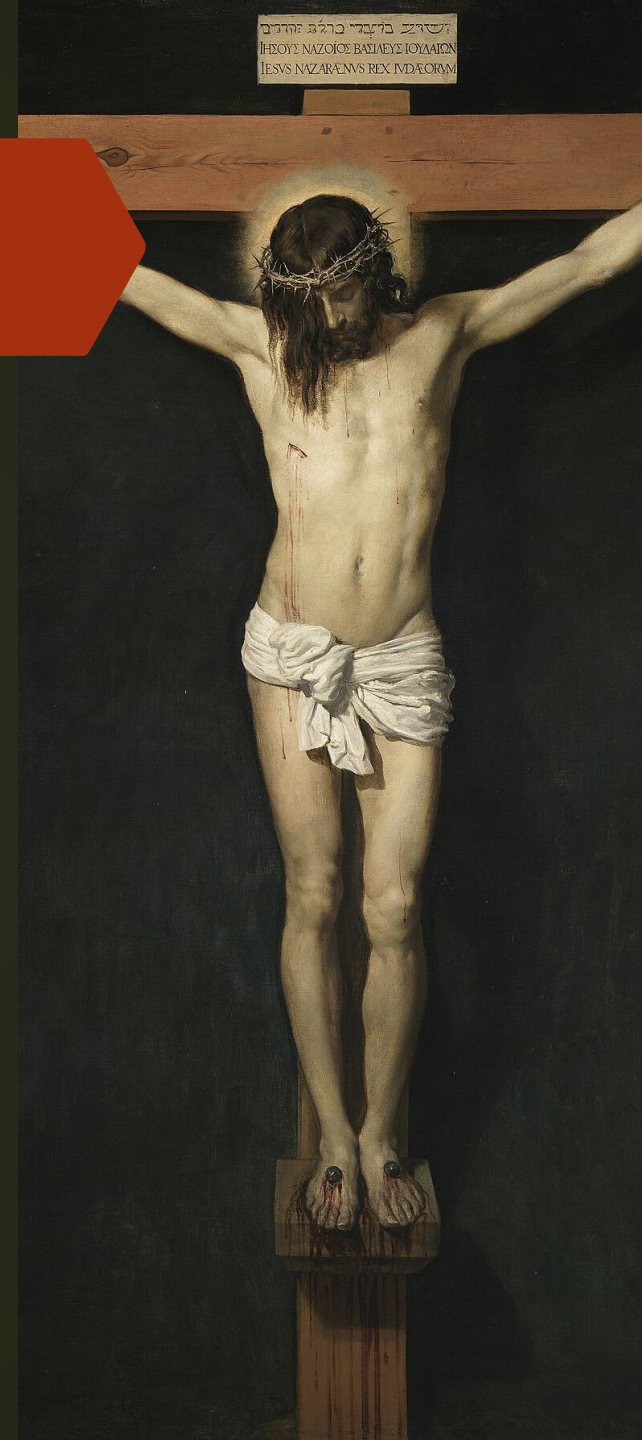
The Remedy

- “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” (Gen. 3:15)
- **Cursed Nature – Incarnation**
 - *“What He has not take He has not healed.”* (St. Gregory the Theologian)

The Remedy

➤ Sin – The Cross

- He bore the sins of all humanity
- Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.") (Gal. 3:13)
- "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21)
- *"This is He who offered Himself up, as an acceptable sacrifice, on the cross for the salvation of our race. His good Father smelled Him at the evening watch on Golgotha." (Hymn of Fai Etafenf)*





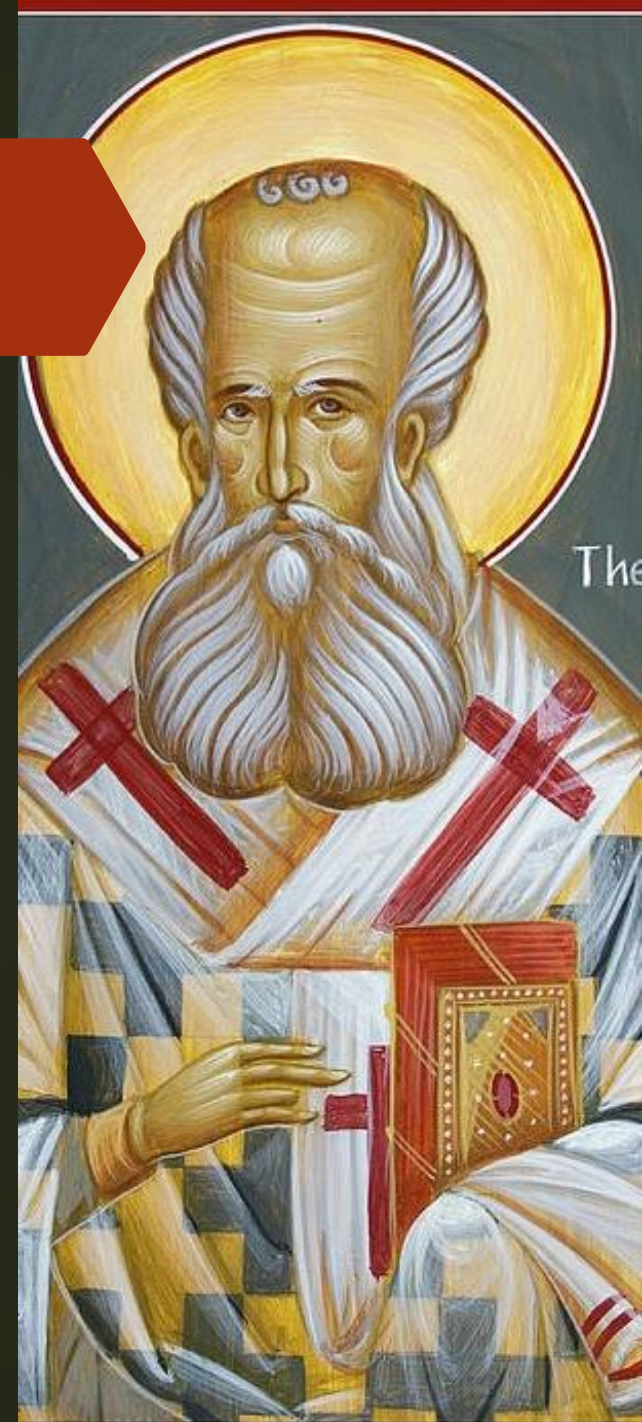
The Remedy

- **Death – The Resurrection**
- Destroyed death by His death
- He released those in Hades
- **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.”** (1 Cor. 15:20-21)
- *“The Lord, when made man for us, and bearing a body, was no less God; for He was not lessened by the envelopment of the body, but rather deified it and rendered it immortal.”* (St. Athanasius)

Who are we redeemed from? Who is owed the debt?

*"We were detained in bondage by the evil one, sold under sin, and receiving pleasure in exchange for wickedness. Now, since a ransom belongs only to him who holds in bondage, I ask to whom this was offered, and for what cause? **If to the evil one**, fie upon the outrage! If the robber receives ransom, not only from God, but a ransom which consists of God Himself, and has such an illustrious payment for his tyranny, a payment for whose sake it would have been right for him to have left us alone altogether. **But if to the Father**, I ask first, how? For it was not by Him that we were being oppressed; and next, on what principle did the Blood of His Only-begotten Son delight the Father, Who would not receive even Isaac, when he was being offered up by his father, but changed his sacrifice, putting a ram in the place of his human victim?"*

(St. Gregory the Theologian)

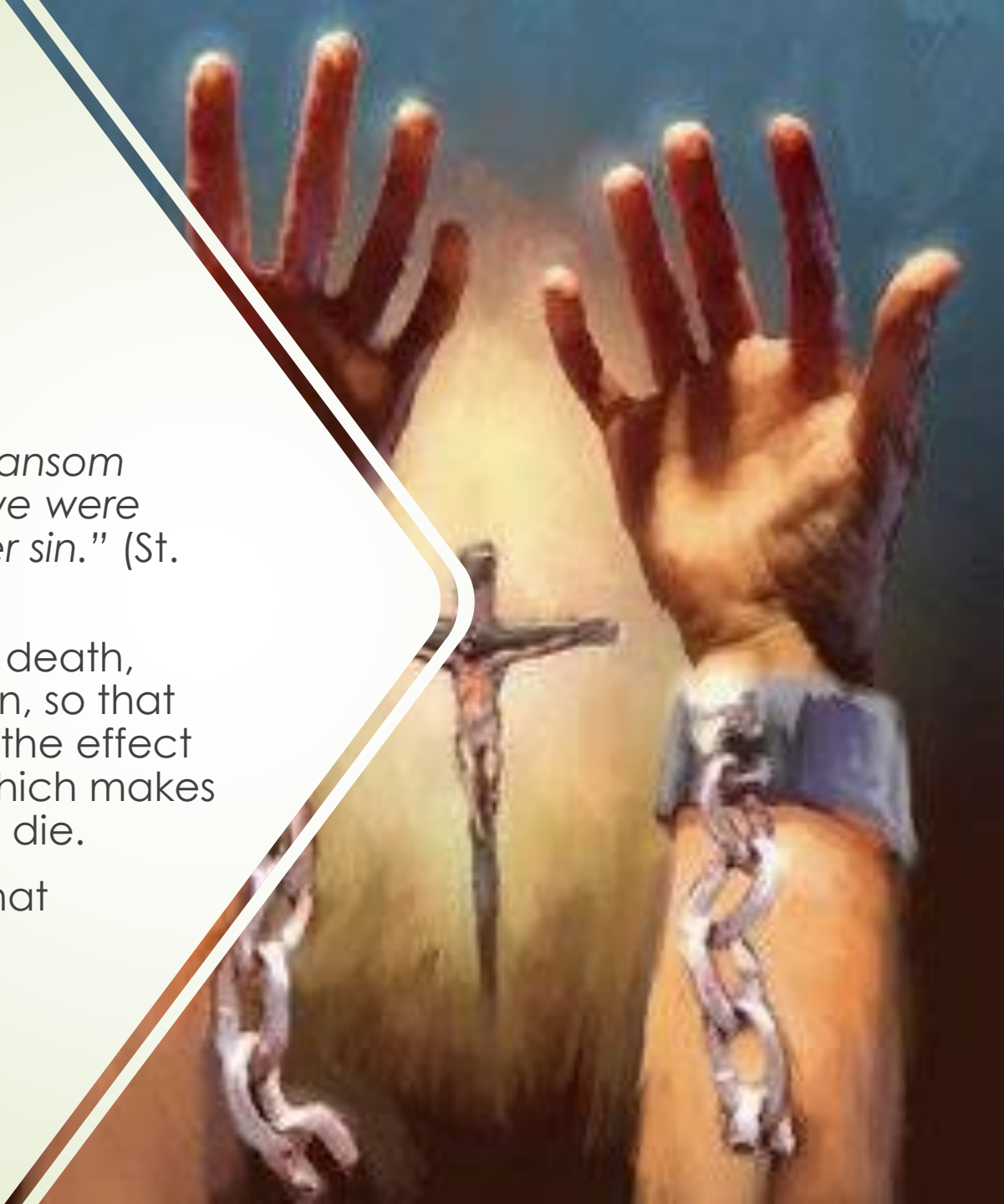


Bought at a Price

- “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **For you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Cor. 6:20)
- Price = His precious body and blood
- Was this some financial transaction?
- “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:15-16)
 - Can one purchase time? Is it held by someone?

Result

- Set us free
- *“He gave Himself as a ransom unto death, by which we were held captive, sold under sin.”* (St. Basil)
- We are ransomed from death, which is the wages of sin, so that we are ransomed from the effect of our own sinfulness, which makes us mortal and makes us die.
- He set us free from all that enslaves us



What enslaves us?

1. Evil imaginations

- ▶ *“...having cast away from us all the thoughts of evil imagination...”* (Liturgy of St. Gregory)

2. Our Will

- ▶ **“For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.”** (Rom. 7:19)

3. Passions

4. Emotions

5. Our own sins and the sins of others

6. Media

Conclusion

1. After the Fall, 3 things changed:

- Cursed Nature
- Sin – inclined to sin
- Death

2. To remedy our condition, He ransomed Himself to save us

3. Result

- He set us free from all that enslaves us

4. What enslaves us?

- Vain imaginations
- Our Will
- Passions
- Emotions
- Our own sins and the sins of others
- Media

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Cor. 6:20)