

We are living in what is called "*The Information Age*." It is suggested that all human knowledge known prior to 1750 doubled in the next 150 years, then doubled again by 1950 - a mere 50 years. It took a mere 15 years to double again by 1965 and doubled in the next 10 years by 1975 and by 1980, within another five years had doubled again. Those who calculate these things suggest that information is doubling every two years since then. In fact, there are more than 2,000 typewritten pages of new knowledge added to the world's information store every 60 seconds. That would take a very fast reader five years to read the increase in knowledge produced in a single day.

Yet in that vast pile of knowledge, billions and billions of bytes, I would have the knowledge of the prophet Job, who could say, (KJ) "*I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.*" To know all these other things and not know that is to utterly lose out in the long view of things which encompasses both life and death and eternity. It is the final, unchangeable tragedy not to know what Job knew.

Job is the oldest book in the Bible. Before Moses, Isaac or Jacob or Abraham, Job had been in his grave. Job is probably the most ancient book known to mankind. And there, like a sparkling, scintillating jewel it shines even out of the dust heap and the ashes and the misery.

*"I know that my redeemer lives."* It was that single bright beam of light coming through a break in the black clouds that covered Job's life, that sustained him in the midst of all of his unbelievable and incredible woes and miseries. He had lost seven sons and three daughters; all of his children were gone! All of his flocks, his camels and donkeys and sheep were all gone. His house was destroyed, and his wife turned against him and said, "*Why don't you curse God and die?*" Children mocked him and fled from him in terror. Even his three friends came to accuse him and to make light of him. Yet out of all this, Job found one bright gleam of light: "*I know that my redeemer liveth!*"

Whatever your troubles or mine we may think that we have, pale into insignificance compared to Job's. There in the dust and ashes, he sits on a pile of cinders, his body covered with boils. He escaped, he said, by the skin of his teeth from the jaws of death. There he is in a stench filled with pain, misery and agony enduring the sufferings of loss and yet he had that living hope in his Redeemer in the midst of a dying world.

Do you have that hope today? He didn't say, "*I hope my redeemer liveth.*" Nor did he say, "*I wish my redeemer lived.*" No, what he did say was, "*I know that my redeemer lives!*" Do you have that unassailable assurance in your heart? "*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.*" Can you truly say that? Does your heart sing that wondrous song?

*"You can't know anything for sure,"* said the pompous professor. "*Are you sure?*" asked the student. "*I'm positive,*" he said. If there is one thing that distinguishes our information age it is that we have all this knowledge and yet we don't know anything for sure. This is a strange paradox. But the Christian knows. He/she knows what Job knew; he/she knows that the Redeemer lives and what glorious knowledge that is. "*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God,*" wrote John, "*that you may know that you have eternal life ..*" (1 John 5:13). Not merely hope or wish or think or suppose but know it beyond any doubt. Christ offers to His own that certain knowledge that will stand up against all of the onslaughts of this world; against all of the disasters and the catastrophes. We can know that the Redeemer lives!

As he lay on his death bed, Sir Michael Farady was asked, "*Do you have any speculations?*" You may remember him as the scientist who discovered magnetic induction. "*Speculations!*" he exclaimed. "*I have no speculations. I have only certainties. I know that my Redeemer liveth. I know who I have believed and know that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day!*" And shortly after he breathed his last.

The word "redeemer" in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew "goel". It is also translated, "*a kinsman*" and, "*avenger of blood.*" So Job can say that even though his sons and

daughters were dead and his wife had left him and all his cattle and property were gone, 'I have a kinsman that lives and who shall never die.' The word *liveth* or *lives*, is in the emphatic position. He *lives!* Though these are dead, He lives and is alive forever more. Spurgeon says that his is a kinsman, not by chance, as we are born into a home not of our own choosing. We have brothers and or sisters not of our own choice. We even have a mother and a father who we did not choose. The fact is they didn't really choose us; they didn't know what they were getting! But here is a kinsman that came and chose us as His own. He takes us just as he finds us, wealthy or poor, famous or unknown, learned or unschooled, young or old, and he is not embarrassed with us. Jesus Christ, the noblest of the Noble, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the One who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and a thousand galaxies times a thousand more - is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters. He came to become kin to us and He is a closer kin than any blood kin that we can know.

There are brothers and sisters in this world where one knows Christ and others who do not. They are really separated by a great chasm of unbelief and their hearts are not close together. Yet Christ is closer than any human kin can be. He is closer with a relationship that will never end. All the relations of this life will end. All our kin will pass away. It does not matter how many tears you cry or how often you say, "*please don't leave me,*" death will take them from your grip and you will not see them in this world again. And yet Christ lives forever and never dies. Therefore, nothing can ever separate us from Him but rather only draws us closer to Him in paradise - a kinship not severed by death. Jesus is our kinsman.

Another translation for the word "*goel*" is, "*vindicator.*" He is the one who vindicates us. There is not a Christian who hasn't been falsely accused. If they are worth their salt as a believer, if they are not a craven coward, if they stand up and proclaim their faith in Christ, there are those who are going to accuse them falsely for it. There are those who are going to persecute them for it. The Bible tells us that we should rejoice and be glad when people revile and persecute us for Christ's sake, for great is our reward in heaven. We are also told that we will be vindicated by Christ against all false accusations. In that great and glorious judgement day all false accusations will be undone and the truth will be made known. And beyond that, Christ will vindicate those who love Him even though some of those accusations are true. He has taken all those accusations and sins unto Himself. All our guilt is imputed to Him. He takes it all into His own body and soul the penalty that should be ours and He washes the slate so that we are made whiter than snow.

A third translation of *goel*, is *avenger*. He is the avenger of blood. God not only vindicates our name but the Redeemer will also avenge our cause. We, the Church of Christ are the body of Christ and He will avenge both His enemies and ours. "*How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*" the saints cry out in Revelation 6:10. Then the Scripture teaches us, "*Vengeance belongs to me, I will recompense says the Lord,*" (Heb. 10:30). It is a promise that we must not forget.

And finally, He is the *Redeemer*, meaning '*He is the one that buys back.*' The Latin means to '*purchase, to buy, to buy back, to repossess.*' We are in debt because of sin and Christ is the One who pays our debt and delivers us from the debt of our sins. We say, "*Father forgive us our debts, trespasses, sins...*" He has paid the price and provides the ransom and the deliverance.

Many times I have asked people if they want to receive Christ and many have answered, "*I don't think I can.*" So often it is not that they don't want to, but they are afraid to be extricated from their sin. The end result of sin is that it is bondage when we get caught in its clutches. Many people look at Christ, the Christian life, and they are afraid to commit themselves to Him. They would like to accept this One who has paid the penalty for their sins but they know they cannot get free. How many are in bondage today! Are you one of them? I am here today to tell you that there is a *goel*, a delivered, a redeemer that not only paid the penalty for our sins but can also break the shackles and set the prisoner free. He can make each one of us free from whatever it is that holds us so invincibly. That is what Christ can do. When Christ sets you free, you can sing the glad song in your heart and with your lips, "*I know that my Redeemer/ my Saviour lives ... He lives within my*

*heart.” Yes, “Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.”*

The question that you need to answer is: “*Is Jesus Christ your Saviour?*” Not is He “the” Saviour? Only you can answer the question, is He *Your Saviour Your Redeemer? Your Deliverer? Your friend?* It won’t do any good unless *He* belongs to *you*.

Martin Luther said that the marrow of the Gospel is found in the pronouns. There is a lot of truth in that. I know that *MY* Redeemer lives. I pray this is the song of *your* soul, the triumphal shout of *your* heart. I trust He is He *yours*. He can be regardless of how bad things could be or have been. Even in the midst of the ashes, He can put a song in your soul. Reach out, right now, the hand of faith and receive Him as your own.

**PRAYER:** O God, there are some here that are in the depths of the bondage of sin. There are some who are in the depths of bondage that has brought them to utter despair. They see no way out. They have looked to the right and the left, behind them and before them. Lord, lift up their eyes. Let them look up unto Christ who looked down to them from the cross from which streams a power that can deliver every brother and sister from every stain of sin and every bondage of evil and transform them into conquerors for Christ.

May everyone say, “Lord Jesus, be my Redeemer. Come into my heart right now. Set me free. O God, I am stained with sin. I am unclean and impure. Come and wash me and make me whiter than snow. O Lord, make me wholly thine own. I thank you that by your Spirit I can say: “I know that my Redeemer lives.” In His name we pray, Amen.