

November 30
Sunday

FOR SALE— "As Is"

READ:
Revelation 5:1-12

For You were slain, and
have redeemed us to
God by Your blood.
—Revelation 5:9

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:
■ Ezekiel 37-39
■ 2 Peter 2

a house listed for sale "As Is" usually means the seller is unable or unwilling to spend any money to repair it or make it attractive. Any necessary repairs or desired improvements are the responsibility of the buyer after the purchase is complete. "As Is" on a real estate listing is equivalent to saying, "Buyer beware. Home may require significant further investment."

How remarkable that when Jesus died, He paid the highest price for each of us, regardless of our condition. Revelation 5 describes a scene in heaven where only "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David" is found worthy to open and read a sealed scroll (vv.3-5). He appears as a Lamb and becomes the object of praise in a

new song, "For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth" (vv.9-10).

Jesus Christ willingly purchased us for God with His blood. We were bought "as is," faults, defects, needed renovation included. By faith we are now under His ownership, in the process of remodeling for God's glory. How wonderful that God knew us, loved us, and bought us just as we are.

—David McCasland

*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain;
He washed it white as snow. —Hall*

**God knows us inside and out.
No renovation project is too big for Him.**

There is a distinct difference between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the condemnation of the devil, because the two speak different languages. The characteristics of each should help you distinguish who is speaking. However, we sometimes mistake Satan's voice for God's, because Satan's voice fits so well with our own distortions and misunderstandings about God and how we think He feels about us. But God speaks to us in a way that is completely different from the condemnation of Satan.

How can you tell the difference? Satan communicates in the following way:

- **Tone:** accusing, nagging, and mocking. Generates fear and causes confusion.
- **Vague:** generates an overall sense of guilt, as if everything is wrong. Creates feelings of hopelessness and weakness.
- **Discouraging:** attacks your self-confidence, tells you that you are weak and worthless.
- **Brings up the past:** replays your sin and shame, reminds you of your poor choices.
- **Rejecting:** produces the feeling that God has rejected you as unworthy and unholy. Portrays God as judge and you as a miserable sinner.
- **Isolating:** gives suggestions that cause you to withdraw from others.
- **Negative:** tells you that the horrible way you feel is the way it is.

Call To Me

God is eager to communicate with His children. The Lord's words to Jeremiah extend to us as well: "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things" (Jer. 33:3). What we need to do is to get ready to hear Him. Hearing from God is a learning process that takes time, but it is available to everyone who desires it. We don't have to have reached some high level of spiritual maturity. We don't have to have it all together, with all the struggles of our lives under control. He is available to us just as we are.

It's also important that we allow ourselves the freedom to listen expectantly for Him. During Jesus' ministry, He took time alone with His Father and told His disciples to do the same (Mark 6:31,46). We too need a quiet place free from distraction. Once there, how do we know that what we're hearing is truly from God?

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to determine if it is God speaking to you:

- Is it consistent with Scripture?
- Is it consistent with the character of God?
- Does it lead to change or growth in your life?
- Does it lead to the restoration of relationships?
- Is there a sense of healing; release from past sin or pain?
- Is there a sense of peace, a lessening of anxiety, of contentment where once there was striving?
- Does it lead to conviction instead of guilt?

The conviction of the Holy Spirit is just the opposite:

- **Tone:** gentle, loving, imploring, and urges your return to Him.
- **Specific:** tells you to take a specific action in response to sin; freedom follows.
- **Encouraging:** says you can rely on His power, not your strength.
- **Releases you from the past:** tells you your sins are forgiven, never to be held against you.
- **Attracts:** generates an expectation of kindness, love, and a new beginning with His help.
- **Draws into fellowship:** sends others to minister to you in love, as well as sends you to others. Speaks of His unchanging nature and steadfast love.
- **Truthful:** states the facts about you and God.

Use the list above as a guideline so you will be able to clearly hear God's responses as you share your heart with Him.

The Bible is clear about the fact that God actively pursues a personal relationship with His children. He delights in you and desires to bring restoration to the painful places in your life. He offers Himself as a refuge from fear and anxiety. He holds out His strength to those who are weak, and He longs to mourn with those who are broken. He is here for you—anytime you come.

He is gently calling, "Come with Me."