

WE ARE GOD'S FAMILY

We may not often think of it this way, but our bodies belong to God. In his First Letter to the Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, the apostle Paul tells us that our bodies are “a temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19). That must mean that they are of great value to our Lord. Paul writes that we “were bought with a price” (v. 20). He is referring to that great Gospel truth that we have been redeemed by Jesus' death on the cross.

We must forever remember that it cost God a great deal to rescue humankind from the captivity of sin. The price was the death of God's own Son, Jesus Christ, who had to suffer and die on the cross. By paying that price, Jesus redeemed us from our sins.

All this means that we now belong to God, body and soul. Because of this, we are to honor our bodies and live God-pleasing lives. Our bodies are God's temples. That means they are places where God's Holy Spirit dwells. He inspires us to serve Him in righteousness and true holiness.

But there is another great application of this truth. If our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, then we can be truly sure that when we pray for help, the heavenly Father will listen. We are God's family. Christians have problems in life just as unbelievers do. But there is a huge difference. The prayers of a Christian are heard by God. He always answers them. Sometimes that means swift recovery from illness. Other times it may not. But in faith we believe that God gives us the strength to bear our sufferings and that the Holy Spirit grants us a stronger faith. The apostle Paul wrote, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).

LET US SING THE NEW SONG

When Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist saw Him and cried out, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). Jesus is called the Lamb of God because the redemption He won for us on the cross was symbolized in Old Testament days by the sacrifice of a year-old lamb that was without blemish.

Christ as the Lamb of God appears again in Revelation 5. In his vision, John the apostle sees a Lamb standing by the throne of the heavenly Father. This Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes. The horns are symbols of the almighty power of God Himself. The seven eyes are an image of the wisdom of God, who sees and knows all things. In the vision, the Lamb is given a scroll on which is written the destiny of the human race from the time of Jesus' ascension into heaven to the Last Day of the world (Revelation 5:6-7).

When the Lamb of God takes the scroll, a heavenly choir breaks forth into a glorious song of praise. Their new song rejoices in the wonders of Jesus Christ, our Savior. He has all power, wisdom, glory, and honor. He is described as the one who was “slain, and by Your blood You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (v. 9).

This vision of the victorious Lamb of God is a great consolation to all Christians as we suffer and face problems of many kinds in this life. Our victorious Savior, the Lamb of God, has redeemed us from all our guilt. He reigns in heaven with the Father and the Spirit. This same Jesus promised to bring us safely through this life and someday to receive us into the very presence of our gracious Lord in heaven. What comfort!