

Title: Christ our Surety
Text: Hebrews 7: 22
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Hebrews 7:22: By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Subject: Christ our Surety

What is a surety? In the world of finance, a surety co-signs for a person who is taking out a loan. When the surety co-signs the loan, he immediately becomes *jointly* responsible to pay back the loan. If the person borrowing money is late on a payment or if the borrower is unable to pay then the surety must pay back the loan. But with God, Christ is Surety in a far greater way.

Proposition: Before God created the world, God's own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, was made Surety of God's everlasting covenant of grace on behalf of God's elect.

CHRIST IS OUR ETERNAL SURETY

Christ became Surety of God's everlasting testament before the foundation of the world. In eternity, God chose his Son to be Surety, trusting all God's elect to him. God the Father trusted his Son to manifest God's glory as he saved his elect people! God the Father first, trusted his Son!

Ephesians 1: 12: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Before the foundation of the world, the Son of God voluntarily entered covenant with the Father to be Surety for all God's elect. The Son of God entered covenant to perform all that God the Father required of his people. He became Surety for us. Christ entered covenant to bring all God's elect to the Father perfectly righteous and holy. We see a type of Christ our Surety in Judah when he became surety for Benjamin.

Genesis 43:8: And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, *and* also our little ones. 9: I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:

That is the honor of Suretyship to which Christ bound himself to God for his people. The word "surety" means to draw nigh. Like Judah, the Son of God drew nigh to God the Father on behalf of his elect. Before the foundation of the world, Christ substituted himself in place of God's elect. He interposed himself between God our Creditor and his people who would become debtors to God and unable to pay what we owed.

Christ promised to pay our debt to God's holy justice. He became Surety, promising, to justify his people, to make us the righteousness of God in him. Christ became Surety of God's elect promising to call us and create us entirely new in body, soul and spirit in righteousness and his holiness. He became Surety promising to keep us, raise us up, and present us to the Father in the perfection of holiness that Christ has made us.

In all, Christ promised to glorify God his Father, to manifest God's holy name, to be the express image of God in a human body like unto his brethren. The end purpose is that all those he saves will give all the praise and honor and glory to God our Father who first trusted Christ. "That we should be to the praise of [God's] glory, who first trusted in Christ" (Eph 1: 12). Like Judah, the LORD's Christ promised, "If I do not bring them to you then I will bear the blame forever."

So in eternity, before the foundation of the world, Christ struck hands with the Father and became Surety of this better testament. The Lord Jesus is Surety of the everlasting covenant of God's grace. What honor God bestowed upon his Son! This is how God purposed to give his Son all preeminence in all things. This is how it pleased God that all fulness dwell in his Son.

So seeing all this was done in eternity, Christ is our Eternal Surety. In Hebrews 7, the description of Melchisedec is the description of our great High Priest, our Surety, Christ Jesus. He is the King of Righteousness, the King of Peace, without beginning of days or end of life. He is our eternal High Priest and Surety.

Hebrews 7: 16: Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. 17: For he testifieth, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec...

CHRIST WAS OUR SURETY BEFORE WE SINNED

The good news of the gospel is good in every way. This is one more way it is good news. Before we sinned in Adam, Christ was Surety of all God's elect.

The need for a surety is due to a debt that is owed. By Adam's one transgression, all sinned! All fell into debt. We owe God what it is impossible for us to pay: perfect obedience to his law, from a perfectly holy nature. We owe eternal death to justice due to our sin. No sinner can pay the debt we owe to God! It is impossible for you and me to please God and save ourselves.

Yet, before we became sinners, all God's elect had a Savior in Christ our Surety. Before the foundation of the world, when Christ struck hands with the Father and became Surety of God's elect, right then in God's purpose, he died for the ungodly. He is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev 13: 8). This is why God did not destroy the world when Adam sinned in the garden. God was gracious unto his elect for the sake of Christ our Surety, "and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom" (Job 33: 24).

Psalm 89:19: Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people....21: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him.

With an earthly surety, the lender only looks to the surety after the creditor defaults. But here is the good news for true sinners, God never looked to us. God knew we would default. It was God's purpose to glorify his Son. When Christ became our Surety before the world was made, he became legally responsible for all the debt his people owed. God never looked to his people for the payment, only to Christ. This how every old testament believer was saved in Christ before as yet Christ laid down his life; Christ was their eternal Surety.

We have an illustration in the apostle Paul's dealing with Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. Remember when Paul wrote to Philemon? Philemon's servant, Onesimus, had wronged Philemon and run away. But God led him to Paul and God saved Onesimus through the gospel of Christ. So Paul wrote to Philemon, saying,

Philemon 1: 18: If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; 19: I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it

That is what Christ said before the foundation of the world. Except the Son of God did not say "IF he hath wronged thee" but "WHEN." All the sins of all God's elect were put on Christ's account from before the foundation of the world. Christ said, "I have lifted my own hand, I will repay it." God never looked to his elect for satisfaction. In Christ our Surety, we were freed from all sin, all curse, all penalty, and all obligation before as yet we committed sin in Adam because God looked only always to his Son for satisfaction of our debts. This is why Ephesians says

Ephesians 1: 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

We were born guilty in Adam, guilty in ourselves, corrupt in nature, and ungodly. Yet, in Christ our Surety, from before the foundation of the world, we were holy and without blame before him in love, accepted in our Beloved Surety! Since Christ, our Surety could not fail, Romans 8 declares those he elected in Christ from eternity were right then "called, justified, and glorified." Like as God rested from all his works of creation because the works were finished, so when Christ became our Surety in eternity, God

rested all in his Son so that “the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Heb 4: 3). Again, that is why Christ is called the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

CHRIST OUR SURETY PAID OUR DEBTS BY THE MOST PRECIOUS PRICE

An earthly surety pays the debt in money. Christ paid our debt by his precious blood. That should stop us in our tracks and make us bow and thank our Lord Jesus Christ for laying down his life on our behalf!

The wages of sin is death. We owed eternal death under the holy justice of God. God will be no means clear the guilty (Ex 34: 7). We were bankrupt, insolvent, and it was impossible for us to pay what we owed!

God was referring to the wages of sin being death when God said, “The life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leb 17: 11). “Without the shedding of blood is no remission of sins” (Heb 9: 22). Beloved, behold the love and grace of our Redeemer! He laid down his life for us!

1 Peter 1: 18: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21: Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Galatians 1: 4: Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: 5: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe; [all the debt I owed]
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

Another hymn writer wrote:

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child, and forever, I am.

CHRIST OUR SURETY LIVES FOREVER

Hebrews 24: But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25: Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

That is the best news ever heard by true sinners! Christ our Surety lives forever as the High Priest of his people. That guarantees that not one for whom Christ died shall perish.

Since Christ our Surety paid all the debt we owed and justified us, by his intercession, he sends the gospel, sends the Holy Spirit, gives us spiritual life and reveals to his people that he is our Righteousness. He is our complete Acceptance with God.

John 6: 37: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38: For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39: And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 10:16: And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

If you have never believed on the Lord Jesus, may this be the day he reveals himself in your heart and causes you to cast all on him!

And for you who do believe, answer these questions. Can Christ be made sin again? No. Can he be made a curse again? No. Can he die again? No. Can the law lay one charge to Christ again? No. The same is true of us who believe on Christ Jesus.

Romans 6: 9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are no longer under the law but under grace because every born-again believer is perfect in Christ our Surety.

Hebrews 7: 18: For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 19: For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Therefore, with Christ being our Surety who lives forever as our great High Priest, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 5: 6: For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7: For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9: Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10: For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11: And not only *so*, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Hebrews 7: 22: By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Hebrews 8: 6: But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises....10: For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: 11: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. 12: For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

How sure is the better testament? Christ gave us the bread and wine of his table. He said that this wine represents “the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you” (Lu 22: 20). That, believer, is as Sure as it gets!

Amen!