



I'M YOURS LORD, REACHING UP and OUT!

1 Cor. 6:19 20

In an age of liberation and freedom when so many men are saying, I am my own man, and some women are saying, I am an independent woman and so many young people are saying, nobody tells me what to do; I want the record to show – **I'M YOURS LORD! Everything I've got, Everything I am. Everything I'm not.**

I'm yours Lord.
Try me now and see,
See if I can be,
Completely yours.
You woke me up this morning, started me on my way.
You gave me strength to move, to make it through another day.
You gave me eyes to see, you gave me a tongue to talk.
I want to thank you Jesus, for giving me legs to walk.
I could have been dead, sleeping in my grave, but you kept me alive instead.
And I want to thank you for your grace, mercy, and favor.

Some 67 years ago, when I was a teenager in the 10th grade, I told the Lord, I'M YOURS LORD. Everything I've got, everything I am and everything I'm not. I am completely yours. And 67 years later, I can tell the world, that Jesus will never let you down and He is the best thing that ever happened to me.
Thank you for blessing me to see another year that I have never seen before. At the beginning of this new year, I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future. I want to challenge the Newark church, every member of this church with this theme: I'm Yours Lord, Reaching Up and Out! The contextual backdrop is 1 Corinthians 6:19:20....

**"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."**

There are two pivotal thoughts leaping out of this magnificent text: **Ye are bought with a price and consequently we ought to glorify God.** Every child of God has a vertical relationship, that is with God and a horizontal relationship, that is with his fellow man. I'm Yours Lord because I have been brought with a price.
When an article is bought for a valuable consideration; it becomes wholly the property of the purchaser. He may keep it, direct it, dispose of it. Nothing else is to be allowed to control it without his consent. This language is figurative. It does not mean that there was strictly a commercial transaction in the redemption of the church. Christians have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. This was the atoning sacrifice, an offering, a ransom which would

accomplish the same great ends in maintaining the truth and honor of God, and the majesty of his law. There was no price which the sinner could pay, no atonement which he could make, consequently, if Christ had not died, the sinner would have been the slave of sin, and the servant of the devil forever. Paul does not mention the price here in this text but Peter does in 1 Peter 1:18, 19

**“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”**

Jesus mentioned the price in Matthew 20:28

“28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

But Paul mentioned the price in Acts 20:28...

“28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

I thank the Lord that some 67 years ago, as a teenager, I heard the gospel, believed the gospel, repented of my sins, made that great confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and I was buried in cold water for the remission of my sins. And now I can sing the song:

I am redeemed, bought with a priced.

Jesus has changed my whole life

If anybody asks you, just who I am

Tell them I am redeemed,

Where there was hate, love now abides.

Where there was confusion, peace now reigns.

I'm a child, child of the King.

It's all because I am redeemed

There are no shackles on me, I'm free as I can be

Because Jesus changed my life

He died up on the cross

That's why I can tell the world that I am redeemed.

I don't know how you feel about it, but let me sound my trumpet.

I'm Yours Lord. Everything I've got, Everything I am. Everything I'm not.

I belong to you. You live in me. I belong to you,

So your songs flow through my lips

Your work moves through my hands

Your thought stay on my mind

You live in me

And you can have all of me

Cause I'm yours

And I give you all of me.

II. SINCE I'M YOURS LORD, I GLORIFY YOU BY REACHING UP AND OUT

Christians should glorify God in their body and in their spirit by reaching up and reaching out. We should give him all the praise that is due to him, follow His divine teaching in the word of God by living soberly and righteously in this present world. We subject our bodies to his law and yielding to his correction.

1 Cor. 6:9-11

**“9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.**

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God”

Reaching out involves evangelism, soul-winning, sharing the glorious Gospel to lost men and women that we come in contact with daily.

The apostles were arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin Council, and charged, **ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.** Acts 5:28

You have filled the city fathers with your doctrine.
You have filled the city that crucified Christ with your doctrine.
You have filled the city where King Herod resides with your doctrine.
You have filled the city where Gov. Pontius Pilate resides..
You have filled the political infra-structure of Jerusalem.
You have filled the religious structure of Jerusalem with your doctrine.
This was given as a criticism, but God fixed for a compliment. They had captured Jerusalem for Jesus. They were reaching out for Jesus.

Until now, the Jerusalem church had stayed in Jerusalem, capturing that city for Christ, but there arose a great persecution against the church at Jerusalem and they were scattered abroad. The Bible says in Acts 8:4 **"Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."** This is saturation evangelism, every member using every available person at every available time by every available means to preach the glorious gospel. This is how the first century church accomplished the most amazing results. The whole paganistic Roman Empire was undercut and overthrown by the power of the Gospel of Christ which was on the lips of Christ-conquered disciples who crossed seas and deserts, who pierced the darkest jungles, who seeped into every city and town, who turned the world upside down. They didn't have radio, television, telephones, computer and internet, fax machines, E-mail, automobiles, trains, ships, airplanes, but thank God that **THE WORD OF GOD WAS SHUT UP IN THEIR HEARTS AS A BURNING FIRE.**

The greatest thing a human being can do is to bring another human being to Jesus Christ as Savior. I'm Yours Lord, Reaching Up and Out.

IF EACH CHRISTIAN AT CLINTON AVENUE WERE CAPTIVATED BY OUR THEME: I'M YOURS LORD, REACHING UP and OUT!, we will baptize 100 persons in 2019. Say amen, if you can. If more of us were propelled by the spirit of our theme, our Bible School and Bible classes would be overflowing, our Sunday night service would equal the Sunday morning in attendance, more Christians would visit the sick, more Christians would be soul winners and support our Gospel Meetings, more Christians would give as the Lord has prospered them, thus surpassing every financial goal, and more Christians would love one another, forgive one another, and encourage one another. Now if you have gone out of business, you ought to take down your sign **The year of 2018 is gone.** As I reminisce its startling events, I know that I know that the Lord has been good, extremely good to this congregation. **God has smiled on us!** The year of 2018 was another great year. At this writing in 2018, we have **baptized 21 persons** thus far. **Praise the Lord for those persons.** I must salute you as a great church and commend you for your support to the church in 2018, but we must move a little higher. **I'M YOURS LORD, REACHING UP AND OUT!**

...Eugene Lawton