

Ephesians 1:7-14

“Redemption, Revelation & Reward”

The selection of the Father, the sacrifice of the Son & the Seal of the Spirit. Those are the things drawn to our attention in the opening statements of Paul’s letter to the Eph. He highlights the work of the Triune God in every detail that makes for our salvation, our sanctification & our eternal destination through faith in the atoning work of J.C. on our behalf. **Having said that I should say that it’s not that each Person of the Godhead works independently, but rather each Person (the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit) are working together (in unity) making our salvation a reality. Each Person having a unique ministry in our lives.**

Last week we spent our entire time simply exploring the work of God the Father, who has blessed us w/every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places *in Christ*. Everything God has for you, is *in Christ*, He has nothing for you *outside of Christ*. **The Father has elected us in Christ, adopted us in Christ. Through faith in Jesus we’re made more than friends of God (though that alone would’ve been more than we deserved), we’re made the very family of God.**

John, (in his gospel) said that like this, **“But as many as received Him, (speaking of Jesus) to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”**¹ Or another way to understand that; we don’t become children of God by being born physically, or through some grand act through which we make ourselves worthy. We have to be “born again” spiritually by believing in Jesus *personally* (from the heart). But this is God’s plan for us... The purpose? Look at Vs 6 (read).

You see? It’s never about my good works, it’s always about His great grace. By which (or through which) He has made us accepted in the Beloved. Who’s the “Beloved”? J.C., the only Begotten Son of God whom the Father loves (Jn 3:35, 5:20).

Vs 7-8

“In *Him*”, in whom? In Christ (the Beloved of the Father) “...we have redemption through *His* blood.” Remember what I said a minute ago? Everything that God has for you is *in Christ*. In *Him* we have redemption, there is no redemption in any other plan or in any other Person. There is no possibility of redemption outside of the shed blood (the substitutionary death) of Christ on our behalf.

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Jn 1:12-13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jesus said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**² & Let's just be clear here. W/statements like that we can't default Jesus into the "good man", "fine teacher" category not unlike any other religious leader in history. I don't remember Buddha uttering anything like that, or Confucius, or Muhammed... You start making those kinds of claims it throws you instantly into 1 of 3 categories, doesn't it? You're either a liar, or you're a lunatic (you've lost your mind), or you're Lord. Jesus draws a line in the proverbial dirt & forces us to make a decision. Don't say He's a great teacher, was a kind man w/good philosophy. He's either a liar, He's a lunatic, or He's the Lord. & What weighs in the balance of your decision is your eternal destiny...

What is it that validates that He's the Lord, not a liar or a lunatic? The resurrection. Listen, the burden isn't on the believer to prove Jesus is alive (the resurrected Christ was seen by 100's of people). The burden is on the skeptic to prove He's dead. **If He's dead, just find His grave & you alone will unravel the scam that countless millions have fallen prey to, been changed by & died for, for over 2,000 yrs... You can find the cemetery that contains Confucius, or where Buddha's cremated remains lie. But you'll never find the buried bones of J.C. because He's alive!**

"In Him we have *redemption*, through His blood." What does it mean, in Him we have "*redemption*"? The word "redemption" in your bible always implies a price that was paid for the freedom that was purchased. It's a word that was borrowed from the ancient Roman slave market & it was the process by which one could be released/liberated, made free from slavery through the payment of the required ransom.

The bible teaches that all of mankind in every place is enslaved to sin. Now if you would disagree all you need to do to prove it is simply stop sinning☺. Never say anything wrong, do anything wrong or think anything wrong ever again. But you can't! Why, because outside of Christ sin has you enslaved. Jesus said, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."**³ The fact that people sin bears witness to the grip sin has on their lives. & The truth is that *all* have sinned & fall short of the glory of God. So, we were born slaves to sin.

The only way we can be *released* from being sin's slave is if someone were to *redeem* us by paying the required ransom... If we were to be set free from sin's *penalty*, sin's *power* & ultimately sin's *presence* (for when we see Him we shall be like Him, amen?) a price needed to be paid.

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Jn 14:6]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Jn 8:34]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

What was that price? It tells us right here in Vs 7, the shed blood of J.C. Now; what does that demonstrate to us? Listen, the fact that our redemption came through His blood means that this blessing that comes to us from the Father, through the Son comes not only by Divine Decree but it's also given according to His righteousness & holiness... *When God redeems us, it's because His justice has been satisfied. God can't bless us in opposition to His righteousness & holiness... The wages of sin is death! God couldn't just wink at sin, let it slide & pretend it never happened. He wouldn't be just or holy or righteous if he did that. His righteousness demands that justice be served & satisfied.*

So Jesus didn't redeem us by His sinless life, He didn't redeem us through His miraculous works or incredible unparalleled teachings... He didn't redeem us by His power, He didn't even redeem us by His love. *He redeemed us through His blood, His substitutionary death on our behalf. That's why Jesus came to this earth, that He might redeem us through His shed blood, the pouring out of His life for ours.*

He said, *"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*⁴ God didn't send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world *through Him* might be saved. God's plan in the Person of His Son was your redemption. He took our penalty upon Himself.

Peter said, *"...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*⁵

Now, allow me to say this regarding the blood of Jesus as well. We don't take a superstitious or mystical view of "the blood". We're not saying that it was the literal, physical blood of Jesus that redeems us. Meaning, there was no mystical element to His blood, as though it had magical properties or something. It's not like those men who were torturing Him, beating Him, scouring Him were suddenly saved as His blood spattered upon them. When the bible speaks of the blood of Jesus it's speaking of His payment on our behalf, the substitutionary sacrifice of Himself upon the cross. He poured out His life for us, He became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace." The word "forgiveness" means "to send away". In Christ God has forgiven you of your sin, He's sent your sins away.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt 20:28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁵ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (1 Pe 1:18-19). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

It brings to mind Yom Kippur, the Great Day of Atonement when the high priest would sacrifice one goat & another he would lay hands on, confess the sins of the nation & it was then taken into the wilderness & sent away. **The idea being that through the shedding of blood the sins of the nation had been carried away. Jesus bore the burden of our sin upon the cross & in Him our sins have been carried away. Forgiven.** The psalmist said that like this, **"As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us."**⁶ & It's all been done *according to the riches of His grace.*

& We're grateful that our forgiveness is *according to* the riches of His grace as opposed to *out of* the riches of His grace. If I were to give you a sum of money *out of* the riches of Jeff Bezos (CEO of Amazon worth over \$90 Billion) I might give you a couple dollars & that would be that. Wouldn't cover much would it? **But if I were to give you a sum of money according to the riches of Jeff Bezos you would have more money than you could spend in 10 lifetimes. Your forgiveness isn't measure out of the riches of God's grace, but according to the riches of God's grace. & Because God's grace is infinite/limitless, so to is His forgiveness. Praise God? That's how Paul could say that where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.**

Sometimes people feel like they could never be forgiven, not after what they've done. & That might be true if forgiveness was *out of* the riches of God's grace. But it's not true at all because forgiveness is *according to* the riches of God's grace. You cannot create a bill by your sin that God's grace can't pay. **Again; not because God's forgiveness is the act of an indulgent deity who is moved by sentiment to overlook our sin. It's through the blood of J.C. (His death & resurrection) that God's grace (notice) abounds toward us in all wisdom & prudence...**

How is it that God's grace touches our lives? In all wisdom & prudence. Some people put forth that it was *unwise* of God to lavish such grace upon us because such a sinful people will take advantage of grace & sin all the more! If where sin abounds, grace abounds more, why not sin more that more grace might abound? **That's faulty logic, how can he who died to sin live any longer in it? The grace of God that brings salvation isn't an indulgent overlooking passive grace that just rushes in to patch up & cover our mess. Paul told Titus, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,"**⁷

⁶ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 103:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Tit 2:11-13). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

God's grace is very active in promoting holiness in our lives! God's grace abounds to us in wisdom & prudence (practicality).

Vs 9-10

Let's keep this real simple. In Christ, not only has God graced us w/redemption, but He's given *to us* revelation. He has "made known to us the mystery of His will" that is, God's great plan & purpose for the ages which was once hidden has now been revealed to us in Christ Jesus.

Btw, that's what a "mystery" is, in your bible. It's not a "who done it" kind of riddle. Something that takes great consideration & deductive reasoning skills to solve. It's something that could never be known had God not (in His grace) chosen to reveal it to us. **In Christ, God has chosen to reveal His plan for the ages (according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself). & That is that in the dispensation of the fullness of times (or another way to understand that) the administration of the consummation of time (when everything is ripe & ready) God will gather together in one all things in Christ (both which are in heaven & which are on earth; in Him).**

In other words, God has appointed a day, ***"...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."***⁸ God will restore all things (all of creation will be renewed as before the fall of man) & Jesus will rule the earth in righteousness for 1,000 yrs. The day is coming when everything & everyone will be subjected to J.C. either as Savior or Judge... The sum total of God's plan is realized in the rule/reign of J.C.

Something else that tells us is that it's God's will for us to have Jesus ruling upon the throne of our hearts even now. Jesus isn't just part of God's plan, He *is* God's plan, to have everything/everyone under His rule. How does that impact me now? When it comes to my life, who's in control? Hey, there's a part of me that wants me to be in control, that's not God's plan. How often relationships will struggle or experience conflict because one person wants to go one way, the other a different direction? But God's plan isn't for me to be in control, or for things to God your way, but we're both to be subject to J.C. **Is my heart under His control?** If not, I'll be a wreck. But if Jesus is on the throne of my heart, I have peace. **The Lord is My Shepherd I shall not want, He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul...**

⁸ *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Php 2:10-11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 11-12

“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance...” Check it out. God redeems us, He gives revelation to us & He *rewards* us. In Him we’ve obtained an inheritance. This is the goodness of God, I’ve done nothing, yet in Christ I obtain an inheritance. You & me, we become joint heirs w/J.C. “Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer. But this I know w/all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom...”

This is your destiny in J.C. “Being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.” We talked a little bit about this last week. The reasons for God choosing to reveal Himself to you, to save you reside in Him, not in us. It’s according to the counsel of *His* will. It’s about His grace, not our goodness.

Again, what’s the goal? (Vs 12) to glorify J.C. God doesn’t exist to satisfy the wish & whim of the *believer*... The believer exists to glorify *Him*. That’s what adds purpose & meaning to your life. When you’re not in line w/leading your life to the glory of God, there will be trouble brewing in your life, in your heart... fullness & fulfillment is found w/Christ at the head of your life, on the throne of your heart.

Vs 13-14

Pay attention to Vs 13 because it outlines “the way of salvation”. First we note that the unbeliever “hears the word of truth” that is, the gospel (the good news) of your salvation. Faith comes by hearing & hearing by the word of God. What is the gospel? That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried & that He rose again the 3rd day according to the scriptures. Once the unbeliever hears that they have a choice, don’t they? They can choose to believe & receive it, or reject it. Should they choose to believe it (not from the head, but from the heart) remember Rom Ch 10, “...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”⁹ When you choose to believe in J.C. from the heart, the Holy Spirit then comes into you & seals you as a guarantee of God’s promise of redemption to you.

I find it interesting that all this time Paul has been emphasizing the sovereignty of God concerning Divine election, but here he emphasizing human responsibility. You & me, we have to believe it. We have a choice to make concerning the gospel...

⁹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Ro 10:9–10]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Once we hear it, we have to believe it & trust in J.C. Then God seals you w/the Holy Spirit of promise... Think of the seal that Roman guard placed on the tomb of J.C. It spoke of ownership, of security, of protection... God places His seal upon you, His “mark” if you will. The Holy Spirit Himself. His presence in your life is God’s guarantee to you. It means God owns you (you’ve been bought at a price) & He who has begun this good work in you will be faithful to complete it.

When we read that the Holy Spirit is God’s guarantee of our inheritance, what that means is that the Holy Spirit is like God’s down payment in your life. When you purchase a house, they demand earnest money from you. A down payment guaranteeing more to follow, the full purchase price. The presence of the Holy Spirit in your life is God’s earnest, a deposit of sorts guaranteeing your inheritance in Christ. You might say that God places a little bit of heaven in your life now w/the guarantee of more than you could possibly imagine to come.

God seals you, “until the redemption of the purchased possession”, until your redemption is complete. Now, it’s complete positionally, Jesus has redeemed you by His blood. But practically we’re not there yet. He’s redeemed us from sin’s penalty, from sin’s power, but the day is coming when we will be redeemed from sin’s presence.

& Through it all, you have been & will be edified, but more importantly, God will be glorified. Amen? Amen.

Prayer Points:

God may we never take the purchase price of our redemption for granted... Jesus we thank You for Your willingness to lay down Your life that we might have everlasting life. Teach us what it means to submit our lives to You that You might rule in our hearts & be glorified in our lives. We thank You for the riches of Your grace, the wisdom of Your grace & the Person of the Holy Spirit of promise in our hearts. Thank You for Your love...

God loves you, Jesus died for you. If you’ve not responded to that message, believed it in your heart, than why not today? Turn from your sin, trust in J.C. & the Holy Spirit will come into you, give you a new heart, a clean slate, a new life. Forgiveness awaits according to the riches of His grace.