

## Redeemed by God

### Ephesians 1:7-10

Ephesians 1:7-12 (ESV) In him [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, [8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ [10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

### Introduction

A. As we mentioned previously Ephesians 1:3-14 is one long, glorious, sentence. I use the word glorious because here we find Paul unfolds the glorious salvation of God.

1. There is an Old Testament prophet named Jonah. When Jonah was in the belly of that great fish he realized only God could rescue him. Jonah cries out to God in desperate prayer saying:

Jonah 2:8b (ESV) Salvation belongs to the Lord!

2. This long, glorious, sentence shows us what God does to save us. This is not visible activity we see with our eyes. This activity of God (the trinity) takes place behind the scenes.

B. You can remember what God does to save us by remembering this simple acronym: CARS.

1. God the Father **chose** us (see Ephesians 1:4).
2. God the Father **adopted** us (see Ephesians 1:5).
3. Jesus Christ **redeemed** us by his blood (see Ephesians 1:7)
4. The Holy Spirit **seals** us (see Ephesians 1:13).

C. This work by God is “to the praise of his glorious grace” and is a demonstration of “the riches of his grace.” Our salvation is by grace through faith.

1. The title of this sermon is **Redeemed by God**. There may be verses in the Bible as rich but none are more rich than Ephesians 1:7 (here we behold the heart of the gospel):

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

### I. Redemption is perhaps a big, foreign word. What does redemption mean?

A. We cannot appreciate the doctrine if we cannot define the word. To help define the word we need to look at the context because the word redemption requires a means.

1. We do not use the word redeem or redemption very often (it has become an antique).

Ex: Years ago we would redeem trading stamps. Or, perhaps coupons in a store.

B. Regarding salvation the means of our redemption is in him (Jesus Christ).

1. Whatever redemption is in Ephesians 1 it is in Jesus Christ. The Bible makes it clear that redemption is not found in any other name (or way). Other religions smuggle in works.

Acts 4:12 (ESV) And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

2. Redemption is in him. We will never stop saying that and we will never stop singing that our

redemption is in Christ (either here or eternity).

C. Definitions of redemption:

Deliverance by the payment of a ransom or purchasing back something previously sold.

1. In order to redeem (provide redemption) a price must be paid. In the Old Testament:  
Ex: Kinsman redeemer would buy a relative out of slavery with a payment.
2. Jesus describes his mission by using the term ransom.

Matthew 20:26-28 (ESV) It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, [27] and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, [28] even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

3. The New Testament describes redemption as buying us with a price.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20a (ESV) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price.

D. The price was the blood of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 5:9 (ESV) And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

1. Paul could have said by his death which would be true. But he says by his blood.
2. There is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood (Old Testament shows us this).

Hebrews 9:22 (ESV) Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

**II. Redemption means our greatest problem is solved.**

A. Our greatest problem is our sin.

Isaiah 59:1-2 (ESV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; [2] but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

B. According to Ephesians 2 we were dead in our sins, and worse, we were children of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins [2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— [3] among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

1. But God, being rich in grace and mercy, chose us and adopted us, redeemed us, and seals us with the promised Holy Spirit.

The work of the Father was primarily in planning our salvation. The work of the Holy Spirit is in applying it to individuals. Jesus' principal work was to achieve salvation by his redemptive death for us on Calvary's cross. James Boice in *Ephesians Commentary*, p 21

2. Salvation belongs to the Lord.

### III. God redeems us for what end or purpose?

- A. Verse 9 says that God makes known the mystery of his will according to his purpose.
  - 1. A mystery in the New Testament means something once hidden is now made known.
- B. What is made known?
  - 1. All things will be united again in Jesus Christ in the fullness of time (things in heaven, things on earth). In the Garden of Eden there was harmony.

The perfect harmony that will be restored will be harmony in man, and between men. Harmony on the earth and the brute creation! Harmony in heaven, and all under this blessed Lord Jesus Christ, who will be the head of all! Everything will again be united in Him. And wonder of wonders, marvelous beyond compare, when all this happens it will never be undone again. All will be re-united in Him in eternity. That is the message, that is God's plan. That is the mystery which has been revealed unto us. Martyn Lloyd-Jones in *God's Ultimate Purpose*, p 206-207

- 2. There will be a new heavens and a new earth filled with redeemed people because Christ paid a ransom at the cross. Therefore, we boast in the cross.
- C. Heaven awaits us and heaven will be glorious.

#### Close

- A. The lesson we learn from this text is this. We cannot save ourselves or make ourselves Christians by our efforts or our labors.
  - 1. If we are saved it is because of the work of another. The Son of God, Jesus Christ.
- B. Are you a Christian?
  - 1. If you say "I am trying to be a Christian" or "I am trying to become a Christian" then you do not understand that we are only saved by grace.
  - 2. We are redeemed solely by believing in the finished work of Jesus Christ.
- C. We are saved by grace through faith. We add nothing to our redemption by our efforts.
  - 1. We are debtors to mercy alone. Forgiveness of sin and sins without price to us.

Isaiah 55:1-3a (ESV) Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. [2] Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. [3] Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.

- D. My favorite picture of redemption is found in the Old Testament. Hosea the prophet is told by God to take a prostitute named Gomer for a wife as a picture of Israel's unfaithfulness.
  - 1. They have two sons and a daughter. Gomer leaves Hosea for another lover. Gomer is sold into slavery and God tells Hosea to go love her though she is unlovely.
  - 2. Hosea 3 tells how Hosea buys Gomer back out of slavery for "fifteen shekels of silver and a

homer and lethech of barley.”

3. Do you see yourself in the story? We aren't Hosea, we're Gomer. Jesus Christ paid the price to buy us out of slavery and that is glorious news.
- E. Our contribution to our salvation is the same as Gomer's. We don't earn it, we don't work for it, instead, we receive it as a free gift. The cost is on the giver of the gift.