

Ephesians, Chapter One, Lesson Three

REDEMPTION IN CHRIST Ephesians 1:6b-10

STIMULATE

** How did you do praising God this past week, from a heart of loving obedience? Did you encounter anything that would distract you, and if so, how did you handle it?

** What were some of the things that we learned, about all that the Father has done for us?

He has; blessed us, chosen us, predestined us, adopted us, He has a kind will toward us and poured His grace upon us!

** Do you recall what our two fold response should be to all of His blessings?

We must be **Holy** before Him and **blameless** before men. This is best accomplished by keeping our focus on things above rather than on those things here on earth.

cf. Colossians 3:1-3

MOTIVATE

** Last week we focused on the "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" and His grace toward us. This week in our Part Two look at Paul's long sentence of adoration towards God, we will be focusing on the Son and what He has done on our behalf. Today, Paul is going to show us our "Redemption in Christ" and the domino effect it has had leading us to a full understanding of God's eternal plan.

Read Passage (V.6-10)

Opening Prayer

Redemption in Christ

INVESTIGATE

V. 6 ** How does God feel about placing His grace upon a world of unworthy sinners?

He "freely bestowed" it on us. *charitoo*, lit. means that God "graced us with His grace". He wanted to; for His glory, without reservation.

** How did we receive this grace?

We received it "in the Beloved". Herein lies the transition for us from the Father to the Son. Remember last week we saw that we received our "adoption as sons through Jesus Christ". Now we are going to learn how we have benefited from what Jesus was willing to do for us.

V. 7 ** In verse seven, what is our next blessing which we also have "in Him"?

We have redemption!

** What does the term redemption mean?

apolutrosis - lit. to release on payment of ransom.

** From what were we being released?

Slavery or bondage to sin! cf. John 8:34, Romans 3:10-11 and Romans 7:14

** To what extent was this bondage or power of sin over God's creation?

It did not stop with mankind, but corrupts all of creation. All see - Romans 8:18-22 (V.21)

** Back in our text for today, how did we get out of this slavery?

We were redeemed "through His blood".

** Why was that necessary?

Scripture demands the shedding of blood in order to provide the forgiveness of God.
cf. Hebrews 9:22

It also calls for the shedding of blood to provide for our redemption as well.
cf. Hebrews 9:11-12

** Our verse seven then adds "the forgiveness of our trespasses" to our redemption, all gained "through His blood". How would you describe the difference between redemption and forgiveness?

It is because of our **redemption**, paid for by Jesus Christ, that we been set free from the bondage of sin. cf. Galatians 5:1, Romans 8:15

Forgiveness, on the other hand, provides the intimate relationship with God, and is made possible by our **redemption**!

Psalm 38:1-4 How great is the need?

Psalm 32:1-5 How great is the forgiveness?

Psalm 51:12-13 How great is the joy?

Psalm 103:12 How thorough is the cleansing?

Romans 8:1 How permanent is the judgment?

** What governs the extent or degree of our forgiveness?

It is "according to the riches of His grace".

** Is there a limit to God's reservoir of grace toward those who love Him?

Absolutely not! cf. Romans 5:20-21

** Is there a limit to our forgiveness, gained through the blood of Christ?

Again, absolutely not! cf. Colossians 2:13-14, 1John 2:12

V. 8 ** Earlier we saw that God "freely bestowed" His grace upon us, what phrase does Paul now use to further describe God's goodness toward us?

"which He lavished upon us" perisseuo - "to make abundant toward". It wasn't enough that God's grace comes from an unlimited supply, but because of His love toward us He must "lavish" it on us! Paul fully understood how undeserving he was of this marvelous grace. cf. 1 Timothy 1:12-15

** As our loving heavenly Father makes His grace toward us abundant "in Christ", what two characteristics of God do we obtain?

"wisdom and insight" - This section of verse 8 provides a problem grammatically in the proper placement of that phrase. Remember, this is all one sentence in the original Greek (from V.3 to V.14). Is Paul saying that God graciously gave us His wisdom and insight so that we might understand the mystery of His will? cf. V.9

Or, is he saying that God was acting out of, or from His wisdom and insight by graciously letting us understand the mystery of His will?

** First of all, how do you define the two terms?

Wisdom - sophia, carries the idea of spiritual understanding or application of the knowledge of God's Truth

Insight - phronesis, is closely related, it speaks of a practical wisdom, that can apply the Truth of God to our day-to-day living.

** Obviously, God does possess both of these characteristics. But, is it possible for us to possess them as well?

Yes, that is precisely why most commentators believe that Paul has said here in verse 8 - that God has given the believer "wisdom and insight" as a result of our redemption (V.7), through the vehicle of His grace which He "lavished" upon us (V.8).

V. 9 ** Either way, using these two characteristics, what did God make known to us?

The mystery of His will.

** What does the Bible mean when it speaks of a mystery?

It is something revealed to us in the New Testament, that had been concealed in the Old Testament. cf. Romans 16:25-26

** Specifically, which Biblical mystery is Paul referring to in this verse?

The mystery of His will concerning Jesus Christ!
cf. Ephesians 3:3-6, Colossians 1:26-27, 2:2-3

** What twofold reason does Paul give us for God to reveal His mystery?

- 1) He did it "according to His kind intention" and
- 2) "which He purposed in Him".

This is the second time we have seen that our loving heavenly Father indeed has a kind intention toward us. cf. Ephesians 1:5

Driven by His kindness toward us, He purposed to bring about our salvation at great expense to Himself through the sacrifice of His beloved Son.

V.10 ** What is God keeping in "view" as He makes known His mystery to us?

A "view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times".

** What does that mean?

It is primarily referring to the unfolding of God's eternal plan in Christ, and doing so in the proper season of man's existence. (i.e. - Galatians 4:4)

Secondly, it is referring to the culmination of all things in creation upon the importance and glory of Jesus Christ as the second person of the Godhead. cf. Colossians 1:15-20

** According to this verse, how broad of an impact does Jesus Christ have on creation by His work on the cross?

He effects all of creation, those things in heaven and upon the earth! Remember what we saw earlier in Paul's letter to the Romans - "For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God". (Romans 8:20-21)

** Does that give you a new appreciation for our Lord's final words before He gave up His spirit on the cross?

John 19:30 - "It is finished"

God in His infinite wisdom, planned from before the foundation of the world, to save us through the sacrificial death of His Son on our behalf. Christ became the "summing up of all things" in the fulfillment of every prophecy about the Messiah and by being obedient to the Father, even to the point of death. cf. Philipians 2:8

EXTRICATE

** We have seen today that we gained our "Redemption in Christ". What elements of that redemption did you notice along the way in our study?

V. 6 - It was "freely bestowed", with His grace.

V. 7 - It came at great cost, "through His blood".

V. 7 - It provided total forgiveness!

V. 8 - It was "lavished" upon us, abundantly!

V. 9 - It gave us our understanding of the mystery.

V.10 - It was planned before time.

DELINEATE

** Which of these wonderful truths causes you to want to express a heartfelt thanks to your loving heavenly Father?

All of them of course, but in particular, the tremendous cost of my redemption makes me very thankful the He paid a debt He did not owe, because I owed a debt I could not pay, I needed Someone to wash my sins away.

EVALUATE

** When you put your thankfulness in perspective with the rest of your life, what impact should that same truth have on your desire to obey Christ in attitude as well as action? cf. John 15:14

"You are My friends, if you do what I command you"!

ACTIVATE

** This next week, to help keep our hearts tuned to what the Holy Spirit is teaching us, I would like to invite you to write down on a 3 x 5 card or piece of paper, the one thing you have noted today. Then, place it where you will see it daily.

May our Lord be pleased with our loving gratitude, put on display each day through our obedient hearts!

Closing prayer