November 22, 2026



Sermon Notes

Ephesians 1:7–10 (ESV)

7 In him 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.

(Answer key located on the last page)

BIG IDEA — *In Christ, we are completely forgiven and set free from the bondage of our sins — so lay down your guilt and live free — to the praise of His glorious grace (v. 6).*

I. Freedom Purchased — Receive What Christ Paid For. *Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)*

Freedom is found in a _____ — Jesus Christ. If you are "in him," everything in this verse is yours (v. 7).

Your forgiveness doesn't rest on your performance. It rests on Christ's _____ (Hebrews 9:12).

The Greek word for "forgiveness" (aphesis) is the same word used for "liberty" in Leviticus 25:10. Forgiveness is _____!

God doesn't forgive you with leftover grace. He forgives "according to the _____ of his grace."

This is Christ our _____. After one sacrifice for sins, He "sat down at the right hand of God" (Hebrews 10:12).

APPLICATION: This week, write the guilt you keep carrying on an index card. Confess it: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). Then write across it in big letters: **PAID IN FULL — Ephesians 1:7.** Tear it up and say out loud, "In Him, I have redemption through His blood."

II. Freedom Purposed — Rest in God's Good Plan. *Ephesians 1:8–9 (ESV)*

Guilt says, "You are a mistake." But you are not God's mistake; you are part of His _____ (v. 5).

God's grace is "_____ upon us" (v. 8). He doesn't measure it out with an eyedropper.

In the Bible, a mystery isn't a puzzle you crack. It's a secret God kept for ages and has now _____ (v. 9).

Paul's word for "purpose" (eudokia) means "good pleasure." Your forgiveness wasn't God's reluctant backup plan; it was His _____.

This is Christ our _____. God "has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:2).

APPLICATION: Every morning this week, read Ephesians 1:3–14. Write one lie guilt tells you, then answer it with a truth from the passage. (Lie: "God is done with me." Truth: "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world," v. 4.) By Sunday, you'll have seven truths in your own handwriting.

III. Freedom Perfected — Live from Christ's Finished Work. *Ephesians 1:10 (ESV)*

"Perfected" doesn't mean flawless; it means _____. God finishes what He starts.

To "unite all things in him" means to add it all up. When God adds up history, the _____ is Jesus.

This is Christ our _____. God made Him "head over all things" (Ephesians 1:22).

Forgiven people become _____ people (Ephesians 4:32).

APPLICATION: Before next Sunday, take one step toward peace in one broken relationship. Text, call, or write: "I forgive you" or "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?" (Forgiving is not the same as trusting someone unsafe. If you've been harmed, talk with Pastor Reaves first.)

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Am I living like Walter — released, but still living locked up? What guilt am I still making "weekly payments" on that Jesus has already paid in full? What lie has guilt been telling me about God? Who do I need to forgive, or ask to forgive me?

Answer Key

I. Freedom Purchased
Person | blood | Jubilee | riches | Priest

II. Freedom Purposed
purpose | lavished | revealed | delight | Prophet

III. Freedom Perfected
complete | sum | King | forgiving

The Good News
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News
For the wages of sin is death, … (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News
··· but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?
You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! "**God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins. Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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