

Eph 1:7–10 (ESV) 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.

1. We continue our doxology of praise to God for his work in salvation

- A. We move from the work of the Father in 1:3-6
 - 1). Who chose us before the foundation of the earth to be his
And predestined us (predetermined) that we would be adopted as his children
- B. Now we move to the work of the Son in our salvation – 1:7-10
 - 1). We could also say we move from the blessings of election past
To the blessings of present and future redemption in these verses

I. REDEMPTION

Eph 1:7–8 (ESV) 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

1. In these two verses we have four important elements

- A. We have redemption
- B. We have the three blessings that accompany it
Forgiveness. Overflowing grace. Wisdom and understanding

2. Redemption defined: A payment required to free somebody = a ransom

- A. The picture is of the ancient slave market – where slaves were bought and sold
 - 1). The owner demanded a price (a ransom) for that slave to be freed or purchased by another
- B. Here the believer is the slave – held captive by sin
 - 1). The price demanded to free us was the blood of Christ
1 Pe 1:18–19 (ESV) knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ⁽¹⁹⁾ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
 - 2). Jesus tells us he came to earth to pay that price
Mk 10:45 (ESV) For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- C. In paying this price he did a couple of things
 - 1). He gained our freedom from sin – it’s stranglehold and its penalty
 - 2). He became our new master – we are now his bond slaves
Tt 2:14 (ESV) who gave himself for us to *redeem us* from all lawlessness and to purify for himself *a people for his own possession* who are zealous for good works.
 - a). He gave himself for us – to redeem us – so we would be his possession rather than sins
 - b). As his possession we stop living lawless lives and we become zealous for good works

3. This whole idea of redemption should be a cause of great praise

- A. Listen - You will be praising Christ for all of eternity because of this – start practicing now
The song that is sung in heaven: Re 5:9–12 (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,* ⁽¹⁰⁾ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” ⁽¹¹⁾ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ⁽¹²⁾ saying with a loud voice, “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,* to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”
 - 1). We will praise him for all eternity for this incredible act that redeemed us

- a). That our creator – almighty God left glory stooped down in love
And rescued us by paying the ultimate payment – His life

Transition: Let's move on to see what that shed blood accomplished

II. THE BLESSINGS OF REDEMPTION

The Redeemed are forgiven

Eph 1:7 (ESV) In him we have redemption through his blood, *the forgiveness of our trespasses...*

1. This is the blessing – two parts

- A. Legally: His blood removes that guilt that must send us to hell
Emotionally: His blood cleanses our conscience from guilt - so we can have peace with ourselves
- B. Google “Guilt” – Many believe this is man’s greatest problem
- 1). Man is aware of things they’ve done – it eats away at them
 - 2). It is a robber of joy – a stealer of peace – a cause of depression – and even suicide

2. But this is the good news of Ephesian 1:7 – there is a solution

- A. God has done something in Christ that can deal with your guilt – no matter what you’ve done

Example. I love this story: Charles Finney was preaching in a great revival in Detroit. After the service one night a man said, "I want you to come home with me, Mr. Finney." Some who knew the man said to Finney, "Don't go," but he went. When they got to the man's house, they walked in, the man locked the door, and pulled a revolver from his pocket. He said, "Don't be afraid, Mr. Finney. I am not going to shoot you. I heard you preach tonight about the Lord Jesus Christ. This revolver has killed four men. Is there any hope for a man like that?"

Mr. Finney replied, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin."

The man answered, "You don't understand, Mr. Finney. Down below this apartment where you are sitting there is a saloon. I have helped send men down the road to hell; I have helped men to rob their own children of food and milk. Is there any hope for a man who would run a saloon?"

Mr. Finney replied, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin."

The man continued, "I have been a gambler all my life. I have spent my life taking money from people illegally. Is there any hope for a man like that?"

Mr. Finney said, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin."

The man persisted. "Across the street there is a wife I have abused, a little girl who is disfigured. One night I came home from gambling and drinking in a drunken stupor. The child ran to put her arms around me and I pushed her away from me. She hit the heater, and is terribly disfigured. Is there any hope for a man like that?"

Mr. Finney said, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin."

Soon thereafter Mr. Finney left. The next morning the man stumbled across the street. He had not slept; he had prayed all night. When he got into the house he stumbled up to his room. In a little while his wife said to the little girl, "Tell your daddy it's time for breakfast."

She went upstairs and said, "Mama says it's time for breakfast." The man said, "Maggie, darling, I don't want any breakfast this morning."

She ran back downstairs and said, "Mama, Daddy said he did not want any breakfast this morning and he called me darling."

The mother said, "You made a mistake; you heard him wrong. Go back up there and tell him it's time for breakfast."

In a moment the man came down, took his wife in his arms and his little girl on his knee. "O wife," he wept, "I have sinned against you like few men have ever sinned against anyone, but last night I heard the preacher preach. I heard about Jesus and about the blood of Jesus. The blood of Jesus has cleansed me from all my sin. You have a new husband. Daughter, you have a new daddy."

- B. In Christ the cleansing from sin is so complete he can say there is “No condemnation” for us

- 1). The law can search the entirety of our life and find nothing to accuse us over
 - a). God has cast our sins as far as the East is from the west – Psalm 103:12
He has hurled our sins into the depths of the sea – Micah 7:19

Thought 1: This is why the Apostles' creed conclude

“I believe in ... the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.”

- A. Because Christ has shed his blood I believe in the forgiveness of sin – MY SIN
Because I believe my sin is forgiven I believe I will be resurrected unto life everlasting
 - 1). This is the Christian hope – built upon the sure foundation of the finished work of Christ
- B. This is so much greater than the hope mere religion gives to a man or woman
 - 1). The hope of religion is built upon man's work – satisfying God by his own performance
 - 2). Muslim hopes Allah will have mercy on that day they stand before home – no guarantee though I KNOW my God will have mercy on me – Why? Because he didn't have mercy on Christ
 - a). He placed my sin into his account and crushed him with the wrath I deserve
 - b). Jesus bore the anger my sin deserved – now there is no anger left for me

Thought 2: This the beauty of Christianity – it gives us truth to stand upon - FACTS

- A. We're not like the world - left with mere religion or foolishness of positive thinking – mental gymnastics
 - 1). It's like cheating at solitaire – These can't get rid of what you know you've done
 - a). It's like putting a band aid on a disease that still is eating away at your peace and joy
 - 2). My safe place after a bad trip on LSD – worked momentarily as I concentrated on it
As soon as I lost focus the fear returned
- B. Kent Hughes in his commentary on Ephesians tells the story of Albert Speer
He was a confidant of Hitler who kept the Nazi factories running in WWII
 - 1). In his Nuremberg war crimes trial he admitted his guilt – and served 20 years in prison
After his release he was interviewed regarding a book he'd written while incarcerated. The interviewer referred to a passage in one of Speer's writings: “You have said the guilt can never be forgiven or shouldn't be. Do you still feel that way?” With a look of anguish on his face he responded, “I served a sentence of twenty years, and I could say, ‘I'm a free man, my conscience has been cleared by serving the whole time as punishment.’ *But I can't get rid of it.* This new book is part of my atoning, of clearing my conscience.” The interviewer pressed the point: “You really don't think you'll be able to clear it totally?” Speer shook his head. *“I don't think it will be possible.”*
 - 2). For thirty-five years Speer had accepted complete responsibility for his crime.
 - a). His writings were filled with contrition and warnings to others to avoid his moral sin.
 - 1a). He desperately sought release from the guilt. All to no avail.
 - b). You can serve the sentence man imposes on you – but it doesn't erase the memory of what you've done – man has nothing to cleanse the conscience
 - 3). But that is the good news isn't it? The shed blood of Christ can do what man can't
Heb 9:14 (NIV) How much more, then, will the *blood of Christ*, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, *cleanse our consciences* from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
 - a). This is what man needs – notice the effect – *“so that we may serve the living God”*
 - 1a). We are set free to live – to run to God – to enjoy him – to serve him
 - 2a). All the things a guilty conscience robs from us

3. I have seen the power of the blood – Harry in England

- A. Harry (Henry) was forced to kill a child during WWII in Europe
 - 1). He said he knew he was going to hell – nobody who kills a child can escape
 - a). This terrified him – lived with nightmares for 50 years – trying to deaden fear with alcohol

- B. He came into our church in England when I was preaching
I said this line: The blood of Christ can cleanse you from all sin – Past, Present, and Future
- 1). He said “That’s it!” Gave his life to Jesus Christ and was delivered completely
 - 2). He began to devour his Bible until he couldn’t see the type – got him a Giant Print Bible
Only problem – his wife had gotten saved too – they were both fighting over the Bible
 - a). Eventually he couldn’t read that – we got him the Bible on cassette tapes
- C. One of the highlights of my life was baptizing Harry – watch him waddle down on two canes
- 1). The day I baptized one of my heroes – I saw through Harry what my freedom cost
He was one who landed on the beaches of Normandy on D Day
He was captured by the Germans and spent time in a German prison camp
 - a). I can’t wait to see him again! Soon Harry! I want to hear some more of your stories
- Point:** That is the power of the blood of Christ – 50+ years of terror erased in an instant
Question: Saints are you forgiven? If you are then it is complete – past- present and future – next point

According to the Riches of His Grace = Total Forgiveness

Eph 1:7–8 (ESV) 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...*

1. Here we see the motivation behind redemption – God’s goodness – not ours

- A. If redemption is by grace then it can’t be because of our goodness
- 1). It must be a free gift given to those who can’t earn it = Undeserved favor
 - 2).
- B. To try to merit redemption is to destroy grace – it turns grace into works
Ro 11:5–6 (ESV) So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁽⁶⁾ *But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*
- 1). The problem is our works could never merit God’s acceptance and forgiveness
Is 64:6 (ESV) We have all become like one who is unclean, and *all our righteous deeds* are like a polluted garment.
 - a). The best we can do – our righteous deeds - are polluted by our sin and selfishness
 - 2). Salvation and forgiveness is a free gift given to those who trust Christ

Thought: Have you embraced Christ by faith – then are you resting in his work of total forgiveness

- A. He has forgiven us *according to the riches of his grace*

Question: Why did God have Paul add that?

- A. To show us how great our forgiveness is – it is powered and sustained by inexhaustible grace
- B. It is not out of God’s riches it is according - explain
- 1). This means God doesn’t hold grudges against us – really bugged by us
 - a). This forgiveness is exhibited by the prodigal son – why he put that in Scripture - explain
 - 1a). Sinned greatly against his father – dishonored the family – lived in great sin
 - 2a). When he comes back – full acceptance – no grudges – kissed and blessed
- C. This is grace that instructs Peter to forgive 70x7 when sinned against in the same way
- 1). IOW Don’t bother counting Peter – my forgiving grace is always greater than a sinners sin
 - a). God says -When I forgive by grace – I lavish that grace upon the sinner
 - 1a). This grace doesn’t leave a trace of their sin in the books
 - 2). God wants you to know that – that is why he put THAT in the scriptures

Question: Do you struggle with feeling forgiven? What would God say to you?

Is 1:18 (NIV) “Come now, *let us settle the matter,*” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

- A. I love that – God says “*settle the matter*” – stop beating yourself up – believe the truth
 - 1). If God has said your record will be white as snow – he will hold nothing against you
 - a). If he said there is now no condemnation for you who are in Christ
Then why are you acting like he hasn’t done what he promised he would do
- B. Settle the matter once and for all! Honor God by believing him
Stop letting some sin you confessed again and again keep beating you up. Take a stand with truth

Transition: That brings us to the next blessing Paul speaks of for the redeemed

Wisdom and insight

Eph 1:7–8 (ESV) 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. (or understanding)*

1. This is a bit misleading – it sounds like it is God’s wisdom and insight

- A. That isn’t idea here – it is speaking of the recipient of grace being given wisdom and understanding
Eph 1:8 (GW) He poured out his kindness by giving us every kind of wisdom and insight

2. Wisdom = emphasizes understanding of ultimate things

- A. Such as life and death, God and man, righteousness and sin, heaven and hell, eternity and time.
 - 1). We could call this the spiritual matters that are important

3. Insight = emphasizes practical understanding

- A. We could call this a God given understanding to handle the practical daily affairs of life

Point: God not only forgives us—taking away the sin that corrupts and distorts our lives—

- A. He also gives us all the necessary equipment to understand Him and to walk through the world day by day in a way that reflects His will and is pleasing to Him.

Thought: This wisdom comes primarily through his Word – watch how this works

- A. For the redeemed – he commands us to read his word
1 Pet 2:2 (NASB) like newborn babes, long (crave) for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

- 1). Do you realize to NOT read the Word is sin – because we are commanded to do it

- B. He has commanded – but helps by working spiritual desires into you if you are his

Php 2:12–13 (ESV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, *work out* your own salvation with fear and trembling, ⁽¹³⁾ *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

- 1). In this case it is a desire to read his word – don’t have that desire? Frightening!

- C. When we do read it – he gives us understanding of what it means

- 1). Without the Spirit you cannot understand the Word correctly

1 Co 2:14 (ESV) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

- a). This is why the unbeliever thinks what we believe is foolish

They don’t have the divine interpreter dwelling within them to explain

- 1a). They are left with earthly minds trying to decipher heavenly truth that is above them

Is 55:8–9 (NIV) “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁽⁹⁾ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- 2). It is not so for the redeemed – the author of the book dwells within

1 Co 2:12 (ESV) Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

- 3). Look at the difference between the unbeliever and believer

1 Co 2:14–15 (ESV) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ⁽¹⁵⁾

The spiritual person judges all things...

- a). The redeemed – those who are right with God and given his Spirit
Are given the ability to judge all things correctly
- 1a). What is really important – what to value – what to pursue – goals etc.
 - 2a). What is going to carry on beyond the grave
 - 3a). Where to put their security

Thought: This is why I never seek advice from somebody that doesn't read God's word

- A. They are living in disobedience and short-circuiting this whole process

4. Summary: What we've seen so far – the blessings of redemption

- A. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ – sin no longer owns us
- 1). We have a new master – Jesus Christ – therefore we can say NO to sin
 - 2). We no longer have to fear its penalty – Christ paid our penalty with his blood
- B. This forgiveness is total and absolute – grace has been lavished upon us – books are clean – no grudges
- C. We have been given the Spirit to help us understand all things – these wonderful doctrines
- 1). Helps us to understand the spiritual things of God and the practical things of life
 - a). This is why you want to stay close to Christ – read his word regularly
Get away from him and you lose this wonderful gift of guidance

Transition: Now Paul turns to the future blessings of the redeemed – go through this quickly

II. THE FUTURE BLESSINGS OF REDEMPTION

Eph 1:9–10 (ESV) 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.

1. What does it mean by mystery?

- A. A mystery in Scripture simply means something that was undisclosed in the past
But has now been made known through divine revelation
- 1). This thought of everything uniting under Christ – was unknown but now has been made clear
 - 2). We'll see more about this as we move on – the miracle of Jew and Gentile becoming one

2. Point: This plan of redemption is accomplishing something amazing

- A. There is coming a time when all things in heaven and earth will unite under the headship of Jesus Christ

Thought: This brings great comfort! We look at the world that is falling apart

- A. But this tells us history is moving towards a glorious conclusion we will be part of

3. What – who are the “All things in heaven and on earth?” Interesting

- A. That would be those who have been chosen – adopted and redeemed – the believers
And everything else in the created universe – including the fallen angels – Satan and the demons

- 1). There is coming a time when they will be in submission to Christ's will

They will all bow before him – admit he is Lord

Php 2:9–11 (ESV) Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ⁽¹⁰⁾ so that at the name of Jesus *every knee* should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ⁽¹¹⁾ and *every tongue* confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- 2). Look at how we will react when we see this

Is 14:12–17 (ESV) “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ⁽¹³⁾ You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ⁽¹⁴⁾ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ ⁽¹⁵⁾ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. ⁽¹⁶⁾ Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ⁽¹⁷⁾ who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?’

- a). I believe we will say that as we see Satan bow – admit Christ is his Lord
 1a). And submit to his authority as he is cast into the lake of Fire

Transition: Back to better things

5. This all begins with the redeemed

- A. The work of Christ uniting everything under himself has begun and is continuing
 1). Every day around the world more are being added to the numbers of the redeemed
 2). New believers - both Jew and Gentile are uniting under the headship of Christ
 B. God calls us through our prayers and actions to be a part of this
 1). Spreading the good news to the lost – before its too late
 2). History is rushing towards that day when God will say “Enough”
 a). All will bow – come under his headship - some do it joyfully while they are alive
 Others will bow – call him Lord as their last act before being cast into hell
 b). If you haven’t bowed yet – do it while it will still change your eternity – you WILL bow

CONCLUSION: WHAT WE’VE SEEN SO FAR IN OUR SALVATION

1. **V. 3-6 Salvation begins in the past through the work of the Father**
 - A. Chosen by God before the foundation of the world to be adopted as his child
2. **V. 7-8 we see the present blessing of salvation – through the work of Christ**
 - A. Through his blood we have been redeemed – completely forgiven of all sin
 - 1). This is according to the riches of God’s grace – it is enough no matter what you’ve done
 - B. When we are redeemed we are also given wisdom to live out the life of the redeemed
 - 1). That life that brings God glory and honor
3. **V. 9-10 See the future order as everything is brought under the headship of Christ**
 - A. The curtain is going to close on this world and its debauchery
 The god of this world that has designed this anti-god atmosphere – will be cast into hell
 - B. Righteousness will reign – joy will be unending – peace will not be threatened – sin will be defeated

Point: These are the great blessings the saint has and what we have to look forward too

 - A. Who should have more joy than us?