

Ephesians 1:7-10

Paul makes this statement in verse 3 “...(God) has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing...” That is a monumentally true, and weighty, statement and it deserves to be expounded. Thankfully, God in His Providence led the Apostle to further articulate how Christ is the means whereby we enjoy spiritual blessing and that is going to be the topic of our discussion today.

1. The means of blessing

- a. Paul reminds us that it is through “redemption” that we are blessed in Christ
- b. The word means to be released from bondage through payment
 - i. Hebrews 9:15 uses the same term and it reminds us that redemption came through death
 - ii. Jesus redeemed us by dying in our place
- c. He bought us out of bondage to our sin by paying the price of our sin in His own body
 - i. This is the meaning of the next phrase “through His blood”
 1. How are we redeemed? By the blood of Christ
- d. Sin brought death because death was declared, by God, to be the punishment for sin
 - i. Humanity is naturally enslaved to sin which means that death is sure
 - ii. Furthermore, all of mankind is incapable of escaping the consequence
 - iii. The only solution was for someone to atone for our sins by suffering the consequence in our place... that someone would have to be:
 1. Totally righteous (if the wages of sin is death, meaning that all who sin deserve death, only One who never sinned could pay for the sins of others)
 2. Merciful and loving: What kind of Person would die in the place of sinners? One who has greater love than we could ever fathom
 3. Powerful: who could overcome the penalty of death? Only a God who is Lord of all things, including the grave
- e. This is why Christ alone is worthy of our praise
 - i. No one else has done anything remotely close to this for you and me
 - ii. There is no greater gift, no greater feat and no greater blessing than that which Christ offers for us

2. The effect of blessing

- a. Notice the order here, Christ redeems, we are forgiven!

- b. Forgiveness is not “free”
 - i. Jesus died so that we could be forgiven
 - ii. The price that was paid for us is astounding
- c. Nevertheless, forgiveness is freely offered
 - i. There is no prerequisite to the Gospel offer of salvation in Christ by faith
 - ii. I love the fact that Paul offers no qualifications here
 - 1. We (Christians) have experienced forgiveness of our trespasses... all of them!
 - 2. Elsewhere, Scripture reminds us that believers come from all kinds of sinful backgrounds
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
 - b. Dear friends, God forgives of all kinds of heinous things
 - d. May we never underestimate the ability of our God to wash away our sins
- 3. The cause of blessing
 - a. Paul tells us that forgiveness is offered us “according to the riches of his grace”
 - b. Grace means undeserved favor
 - i. It denotes the fact that God offers us these things without any qualification
 - ii. It also reminds us that His work of predestination is not an effect of our goodness
 - iii. When we begin to say that God saves us because of a work that we undertook, we are diminishing His grace towards us
 - iv. Grace means... grace!
 - 1. You didn’t earn salvation. You aren’t better than the next guy. You aren’t more moral, smarter, wiser, etc.
 - 2. In fact, Scripture clearly teaches that God chooses us (the saved) for the precise opposite reason!

- a. He chooses the fools and the weak and the unimportant to demonstrate the depth of His power and grace
- c. We are reminded here that this grace is not carefully offered instead, Ephesians teaches that God “lavished” this grace upon us
 - i. The term means to have an abundance, more than enough!
 - ii. The grace of God is so prevalent and strong that you will never exhaust its limits
 - iii. Some of you might be tempted to think that you’ve gone too far this time
 - 1. You may wonder if God can forgive you again
 - 2. If the Lord would welcome you back after you last season of wandering
 - 3. I want you to know that God has not given you a measured amount of grace... He has “lavished” grace upon you
 - 4. He is kind and loving and merciful and His Son’s blood is enough to redeem you from sin... entirely!