

EPHESIANS 1:7 REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD

Once again we come to one of the magnificent statements in Ephesians 1. It summarizes the Gospel. We are face to face with the heart of the Gospel. We just kind of want to stop and gaze. We are dealing with monumental terms. The doctrine is grandiose.

We are now at a transition as we focus on the second person of the Trinity. We have been looking at what the Father did in the first 6 verses. The next six verses will be focusing on Christ and His work.

What was going to be His method to bring those elect people into that reality? To make that relationship really happen? And the word is redemption. He had to redeem us because we were in the bondage of a certain thing and we had to be purchased by God to become His own. So redemption is the key word.

Now I don't know that there's any comparable Scripture in the Bible to this one in delineating redemption unless perhaps it's Romans 3. But this is a fantastic statement of the significance of redemption, and just what it means. In order for God to bring His elect people into the inheritance that He has in the future for them He, must redeem them. He must buy them. He must purchase them. And so we look at the concept of redemption.

1. REDEMPTION

A. THE MEANING

Here's a theological definition. Redemption is an act of God by which He Himself pays as a ransom the price for sin which has outraged His holiness.

APOLUTROSIS—To redeem one by paying the price,
To let one go free on receiving the price, A releasing
effected by payment of ransom, deliverance, liberation
procured by the payment of a ransom

Basically it is simply this, deliverance by the payment of a price.

Story of redemption told in three Greek words
AGORAZO—To buy in the slave market, 1 Cor 6:20, 7:23,
7:30, 2 Pet 2:1, Rev 5:9
EXAGORAZO—To buy out of the slave market, to buy off,
To buy for one's self, Gal 3:13, 4:5
LUTROO—To liberate by payment of ransom, Titus 2:14
1 Peter 1:18-19 1 Cor 1:30

B. SLAVES OF SIN

Now you might look at it this way, in those days in this part of the world there were slaves in the Roman Empire. Buying and selling slaves was a common thing. They did it just like they bought and sold animals. But from time to time you may desire to purchase a slave for the desire of setting him free. Let's say someone you thought very highly of, or someone you loved very early or someone that you cared about was a slave, you could go to the owner of that slave and say -I'll give x number of dollars for this slave, you purchase the slave and you set him free. You say - I just purchased your freedom; you are no longer a slave, go free. That is lutroo, to buy somebody to set him free. And that is essentially what is the word right here, "In whom we have apolutrosis." In whom we have the purchase which sets us free.

John 8:34, Rom 6:17, 7:14, 8:21

So, no one can ever make himself a Christian. It all starts with God. He came to do something for us.

C. SET FREE—BOUGHT BY OUR MASTER

Matthew 20:28, 1 Cor 6:19-20, 1 Tim 2:6,
Galatians 1:4, 5:1, Colossians 1:13, Rom 6:18, Heb 2:14

D. FOUR SIMILAR GREEK WORDS BUT DIFFERENT

JUSTIFICATION(DIKAIOSIS)—The accused is declared righteous

The first one is dikaios. Now dikaios is a word that means acquittal. It means acquittal in the court. When somebody was acquitted of a crime, we translate it in the Bible "justification," "justification." Somebody is justified.

FORGIVENESS(APHIEMI)—The debtor receives cancellation of sin

All right, there is a second word, aphesis. That word means to cancel a debt, to cancel a debt. Sometimes it would be a lawsuit or something would be wrangling in the court and there would be a judgment that would say you don't owe that man anything the debt is cancelled, or whatever, retribution has been made, the price is paid, there's the canceling of the debt. Aphesis in its legal sense means to cancel a debt, we translate it in the Bible, forgiveness,

ADOPTION (HUIOTHEIA)—The stranger is made a son

The third word is huiotheia. And that is a word that means in legalese it means in the Greek world - adoption. Like a family would go to court to adopt a child. Now the Bible really uses it to speak of sonship,

RECONCILIATION (KATALLASSO)—The enemy is made a friend

And then there is the word katallasso which legally means reconciliation. Sometimes people go to court for a divorce and they will be reconciled. Or sometimes two fighting factions will be brought into a suit and there will be reconciliation brought about. Now it means in a courtroom reconciliation and that's exactly the way we translate it in the Bible.

All of those terms are different facets of the magnificent diamond of the doctrine of salvation. And so redemption is just one way to view the meaning of salvation. He bought us from the slavery of sin.

2. THE BLOOD

A. THE COST

Lev 17:11, Heb 9:22

B. THE SCRIPTURE

Heb 10:4, Mt 26:28, 1 Pet 1:18-19, Rev 5:8-10, Rom 3:24-25
Eph 2:13, Heb 9:12, 10:19, 1 Jn 1:7, Rev 1:5

C. ATONEMENT

EXPIATION----Day of Atonement

PROPIATION—God is satisfied, appeased Sin had to be punished.

The design of the sacrifices is to propitiate God. The propitiation was secured as a result of the expiation of sin.

VICARIOUS---Substitutionary

3. FORGIVENESS OF SINS—THE 1ST STEP IN REDEMPTION

How does God forgive you? It is because of what happened in Christ.

Anytime Scripture talks about redemption, it always starts with forgiveness of sins.

A. THE PROBLEM OF FORGIVING THE SINS OF MANKIND

Nothing but the shedding of blood would suffice for forgiveness.

God could not forgive by just saying a word. God is just and righteous.

The Son of God had to leave the courts of heaven and come to earth and

Be born as a babe, suffer and die and shed His blood. It was difficult.

B. GOD HAS TO EXPOSE THE SIN, FIRST

It is painful for people to realize they need forgiveness. They have to be humbled and see themselves as they really are. We want to cover it up and not look at it. The law defined sin and unmasked it. The cross makes us see ourselves as worms, as miserable, guilty sinners.

C. MEANING

APHISTEMI—To send away, letting go as of a debt

D. COMPLETE RESTORATION

Those sins He will remember no more.

Psalm 103:12, Jere 31:34, Heb 10:17, Isa 44:22, Micah 7:18-19

1 Jn 2:12, Eph 4:32, Col 2:13

4. THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

What makes forgiveness possible? The riches of His grace.

Paul is always in ecstasy when he mentions grace.

His riches are unsearchable

It was not by gold or silver we were redeemed but by the precious blood. That is a way to measure the riches.

God does not forgive us because we ask Him to forgive us. He did not send His Son to the cross so we would beg. It was in spite of us. He gave from His riches.

His riches are inexhaustible.

Forgiveness is free

Forgiveness is full.

Forgiveness is complete reconciliation.

Forgiveness is assured.

Poor pauper rise up and in your rags receive the riches of His grace.