

EPHESIANS 1:7-9---THE REDEPTIVE RESULTS

There are people who fly through this chapter and feel they have done it. It is best to stand, for hours before this chapter which has been given to us by God through His Spirit and to gaze upon it and try to discover its riches. We have been reminded that the method of salvation is by the payment of a ransom. Now, we are told that the first thing we realize, as a result of our deliverance is the forgiveness of sin. Then we will learn what makes all this possible, the riches of His grace.

1. FORGIVENESS OF SINS

1:7

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

E. THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

What makes forgiveness possible? The riches of His grace.

The riches of Gods grace are apprehended in recognizing the price.

Another way to realize His grace is that it is totally given free.

All is given with liberality, unbegrudgingly.

Eph 2:4 tells us of God being rich in mercy.

Eph 3:8 tells us of His unsearchable riches.

His riches are inexhaustible.

Forgiveness is free Isa 55:1

Forgiveness is full.

Forgiveness is complete reconciliation.

Forgiveness is assured.

Forgiveness means access to God.

Forgiveness means He dwells in our hearts.

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

God not only forgives us but gives us the necessary equipment to understand Him and obey Him.

2. WISDOM AND INSIGHT

1:8-9

Because God has revealed His revelation in Christ, can anyone come to the NT and read and understand the message?

That we know anything at all is itself an act of sovereign grace. In this instance, there is no such thing as 'the public's right to know!

The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God.

Wisdom is necessary that is from God.

The great quest by the ancient Greek philosophers was for understanding.

God gives the understanding.

A. SOPHIA—Understanding of ultimate things—such as life and death, God and man, righteousness and sin, eternity
1 Cor 1:26-29 1 Cor 2:6-7, 12, 16, 1 Cor 3:18 Mt 11:25

B. PHRONESIS—Practical understanding, comprehension
Everyday living, applying the affections with understanding
The ability to discern the excellence of the things of God and to have affection toward them, the whole of the soul
Matthew 16:23, Romans 8:5, Colossians 3:2

(3) 'wisdom and understanding are gifts which accompany the bestowal of grace, gifts which make possible the perception of his will which the following verses proceed to define. See 1:17; Col. 1:9. If the latter is correct, Paul's point is that God's lavish grace not only provides redemption but also the necessary wisdom and spiritual insight to understand and live in the light of what he has done for us in Christ.

1. Advances in knowledge and in science, the advances of the centuries, make not the slightest difference in the matter of spiritual truth and are irrelevant where that truth is concerned.

2. Scripture must be our sole authority

3. The Holy Spirit is essential to understanding the Scripture.

3. KNOWING THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL 1:9

A. NEW TESTAMENT USAGES

Matthew 13:11, Romans 16:25-26, 1 Cor 2:6-7 Eph 3:2-5
1 Tim 3:16

B. THE MYSTERY RELIGIONS

People had to go to the temples and pass through certain procedures before being initiated into the knowledge of the mystery. It was a closely guarded secret that was confined to certain philosophers and special people, not to the common person. Their meetings were behind closed doors.

C. CHRISTIANITY

1 Cor 2:7-12, Matthew 11:25-26

Something that is a secret beyond the reach of the natural human mind but which God has revealed and unfolded to believers. The mystery has now been revealed to Christians. Christians proclaim their message and don't conceal it behind closed doors. We desire for everyone to hear it.

This was all done according to His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself.