

# The Glorious Plan of Redemption

Paul tells the saints in Ephesus that they have every reason to be encouraged in the Lord—they are the recipients of every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Two of those great blessings he mentions here in this text: the blessing of redemption and the blessing of wisdom, both of which are at the very core of our gospel.

## Ephesians 1:7-10

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

### 1. In Christ we have redemption (7,8a)

The word “redemption” means simply “deliverance.” In Exodus 15:13 Moses speaks of Israel as the people God has redeemed, that is, the people He has delivered out of slavery in Egypt. In the same way, the New Testament speaks of our being redeemed/delivered from the bondage of our old way of life. Cf. Titus 2:14; I Peter 1:18.

Normally, the concept of redemption involves a payment, and thus is the case in our text. The required payment for our redemption was the blood of Jesus. From the Old Testament we know that “blood” signifies a sacrifice offered on behalf of another. Jesus offered His own blood in the place of ours; that is, He substituted His life for ours. This was necessary because God is both perfectly just and also gracious to sinners like us. The payment of Christ's death on the cross for our sins enabled God to satisfy both the demands of His justice as well as His love for His sinful people. Cf. Romans 3:25,26.

Furthermore, in verse 7, we read that our redemption by the blood of Jesus accomplished the complete forgiveness of all our sins. Not one blemish remains on our record in heaven. We are, therefore, free from guilt and shame.

In verses 7b and 8a, Paul also shares with us the grand motive for this redemption: God's immense grace. In fact, His grace is so vast that we cannot imagine the extent of it.

### 2. In Christ we have wisdom (8b-10)

The wisdom of God has been given to us through the revelation of the mystery of the gospel. Because we now know of our redemption, we are free from guilt and shame and from the fear of death. But we also know something about the future: we know that God has a plan and a purpose for all things. Our universe is not out of control. In fact, His plan is ultimately to unite all things in and under Jesus Christ. Verse 10 is the key verse for the entire letter of Ephesians.

What marvelous blessings we have in Christ. May God help us to recount these blessings, to contemplate them, and to live our lives in light of them.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why do we need to be redeemed? What is our natural condition, apart from the saving grace of God?
2. How does the blood of Jesus set us free from the bondage of sin?
3. If all of our sins have already been completely forgiven in Christ, what motivates us to serve Him? Does this motivation work?
4. In what ways is God's plan of redemption gracious?
5. Describe the wisdom God has given His saints. How does this wisdom transform the way we live?
6. Why are God's people encouraged by verse 10?

**Going Deeper**

1. In what area of your life right now do you most need God's "wisdom and insight?" How might the revelation of the mystery of the gospel change your perspective in this area of your life?
2. In what area of your life do you have the biggest challenge in believing that in Christ your sins are completely forgiven? What difference do you think it would make if you could consistently believe His love and forgiveness for you?