

Ephesians Bible Study
Lesson 3 Notes
Ephesians 1:7-10

Our “word” for the day is “Redemption”. As we study this today, we want to understand how redemption was a part of God’s plan from the beginning.

In our notes last week, Vikki shared the breakdown in verses 3 through 14, the eternal plan for salvation.

In 3-6a we are shown the past aspect, election.

In 6b-11 we are shown the present aspect, redemption.

In 12-14 we are shown the future aspect, inheritance.

Vikki thoroughly covered election/chosen

Next week we will discuss the inheritance, but today we will cover the aspect of redemption.

We will break it down into four parts:

Redemption: What it is...

The Price

The Response

The Purpose

Looking at Webster’s definition of Redemption, we see the following:

Redemption – (Christianity) the act of delivering from sin or saving from evil

Synonyms: Salvation

Redemption – repayment of the principal amount of a debt or security at or before maturity, as in redeeming a bond or stock.

Redemption – The act of purchasing back something previously sold

Bible Dictionary

Redemption – In the New Testament, redemption refers to salvation from sin, death, and the wrath of God by Christ’s sacrifice.

- In the Old Testament it refers to a redemption by

a. Lev 25:24, 51-52; Ruth 4:6; Jere 32:7-8; Kinsman rescue or deliverance. Numbers 3:49; ransom Ps 111:9, 130:7.

b. In the Old Testament, redemption was applied to property, animals and persons, and the nation of Israel as a whole.

Redemption – What it is

In order for God to bring His elect people into the inheritance that He has for them, He must redeem them. He had to satisfy the debt of the cost of their sin. That means to pay a price to free somebody from bondage.

Understanding redemption shows us that there must be a price paid for it. Understanding God's plan, we see His purpose in redemption of His chosen ones, and that in turn leads to our response to His inconceivable gift to us. MacArthur's 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." (Rom 6:23) Simply stated, it is deliverance by the payment of a price. In that one statement we get an understanding of the kind of love God has for His children. He Himself pays a ransom or the price for our sin, which outraged His holiness, but it satisfied the price in order for us to be free from the penalty of our sin, which was death. Christ died to redeem His chosen ones that He might raise up a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a people for God's own possession.

The Price

Looking at Ephesians 1:6-8, "To the praise of the glory of His grace, through which He hath made us accepted in the beloved One. In whom we have redemption" God's word makes it very clear... "through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; in which He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

Everybody in the world is captive, everybody that comes into the world is a slave to sin, even the sweetest cute little baby ☺ the Bible says so. We are slaves. No man is free. Every person in the world is a slave in their sinful state. And to whom are they slaves? What or who are they enslaved to? John 8:34 says, "Men are slaves to sin." Romans 6:17 says, "Men are servants to sin." Romans 7:14: "Sold under sin." Romans 8:21: "In bondage to corruption."

Sin demands a price to be paid to release its victim. What is that price? The price, or the wages, of sin is what? Death. (Rom 6:23) So, in order to purchase sinners from the grasp of sin, there must be death. "Without" - says Hebrews 9:22 - "the shedding of blood" - which is simply a term for death, without death - "there is no remission of sins."

"In whom we have redemption through "His blood." That was the price. How did it happen? "The wages of sin is death" - the price was death, somebody had to die. And Jesus did, "In whom we have redemption through His blood" - Christ's blood, Jesus' blood. Col 1:14

The Blood: in this sense means death. Jesus couldn't just cut Himself and bleed on somebody and redeem them. This is simply a way of saying that He poured out His life. Speaking of a sacrificial, substitutionary, violent death for sin. The point is, a life poured out. It implies substitution.

"For by one offering He perfected forever them that are sanctified." Oh, by His blood poured out, He paid the price, and He offers us the purchase price to buy us back from the slave market of sin and turn us loose and set us free. 1 Peter 1:18: "Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ."

All of this was happening in the mind of God before the world began. Your sins and mine were already, in God's mind, totally forgiven, before the world was ever created. In Psalm 103 - Psalm 103:12 -

“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.” that’s Psalm 103:12 - Isaiah 44:22 - “I have blotted out like a thick cloud thy transgressions, and like a cloud thy sins, for I have redeemed thee” In redemption is forgiveness, blotted out, forgotten, removed, sent away.

And then Micah 7:18. “Who is a God like unto Thee, who pardons iniquity, passes by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage, retains not His anger forever, delights in mercy” – now verse 19 – “He will turn again, He will have compassion on us; He will subdue our iniquities; Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” They are in the depths of the sea. As far as infinity, in opposite directions, they are gone never to come back again. Giving His whole life made our life possible.

Our Response

In Galatians, chapter 5 and verse 1, it says: “For freedom Christ has set us free: Therefore stand fast, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” “For freedom Christ has set us free.” In Galatians 1:4: “Who gave Himself” - the Lord Jesus Christ, verse 3 says - “Who gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil age.”

1 Peter 2:9-12 helps us see our response to the mercy of God and His goodness.

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Titus 2:13-14

...Our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

“My little children, He’s forgiven you all your trespasses for His name’s sake,” 1 John 2:12. Ephesians 4:32: “Be ye tenderhearted, forgiving one another; even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Colossians 2:13: “He’s forgiven you all your trespasses.”

When God had it in His mind before the world began, it was all there, it was all taken care of, it was all finished. And it’s just what Jesus said to Peter, “If you’ve once had a bath, all you need each day is to just kind of wash your feet off a little bit when they get dusty.” 1 John 1:9: “He is faithful and just to keep on cleansing us.” It’s constant He forgave us, and now He gives us His plan.

By His wonderful grace, He forgives our sin. And then He puts into our minds, and pours through our hands, and feet, and mouths, principles for spiritual living, in the midst of a world like ours.

Because what He has chosen to hide from the wise and the prudent of the world, He has chosen to reveal to us His children.. If there's anything you don't know, you can trust God to supply, because James 1 says, "If any man lack wisdom, let him" let him "ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, and holds nothing back." Not only has He taken care of the sin problem, but He's opened up to us the concept of His truth, and how to live it in the world. That's the results of redemption.

What's the purpose?

Why did He do it all? What's the intention of it? Verse 9: "Having made known unto us the mystery of His will". He told us this mystery of the church, and the body, and all these great things - "according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself" - He did it on His own, with His own desires in mind, for Himself.

"In order that in the dispensation of the fullness of times" that means the millennial kingdom, and right on out into eternity, when time is filled up, when the end comes, when the kingdom arrives, and eternity comes, the new heaven and the new earth, ultimately, was seen there - "He will gather together in one all things in Christ, which are in heaven, and which are in earth; even in Him." Listen. God is redeeming in order that He might gather everything to Himself.

That will be the day when, Paul said to the Philippians, "Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, whether they be on earth, in heaven or under the earth." Christ will gather the universe into unity. Right now, the universe is splintered, it is scattered, it is divided. Satan rules, demons provoke, and God will call all things into one in Christ, and there will be incredible and eternal unity in Him; all things redeemed.

Why is He redeeming us? To make us a part of the final goal of history: to bring all things to Himself. And the rebels purged out, dismissed from His presence. That's the purpose.

Accept the fact that He died for us. He paid the price to set us free." You can enter into that eternal life, that incredible existence, that plan which He has prepared.