

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sunday 21st January 2024

The Book of Ephesians – Where the rubber meets the road.

Ephesians 1:1-14 – Focus Verse 7-10

Question - How many of us have said this or had this said to us?

How many times I have I told you?

If we are parents of children, I expect we have said this.

If you are a child of parents, I expect you have heard this.

Why do we do that?

We are having it brought to our attention that we need to be reminded of something.

Something we have been taught or told before that we have not paid attention to, or it isn't resonating in the moment with us.

As we go through this we may be thinking – “well I have heard this before – I think I understand this”.

That is great – but it is important that we are reminded of these things.

We have already been reminded of and talked about these things.

W. A. Criswell – Believers bible study

In Christ I am...

- Blessed - verse 3
- Chosen - verse 4.
- Predestined - verse 5.
- Adopted - verse 5.
- Accepted - from the statement - “to the praise of his glory and his grace.

that he lavished on us.

We have talked about these and may have already known those.

We will about – In Christ I am ...

- Redeemed.
- Forgiven.
- Enlightened.

Ephesians 1:7-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.^[d] ⁹He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the right time^[e]—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

Take a step back and read the first 14 verse – in these verses are the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ that we are talking about.

Working through – being reminded of – bringing us to place like Paul where we sing out - cry out – “Blessed is God and Father or our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”.

Ephesians 1:1-14 Christian Standard Bible

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus^[a] at Ephesus.^[b]

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s Rich Blessings

³Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him.^[c] ⁵He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.^[d] ⁹He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his

good pleasure that he purposed in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the right time^[e]—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

¹¹ In him we have also received an inheritance,^[f] because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹² so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

Focusing on this section – as it goes all together – working our way through all of these spiritual blessings that Paul is recording for us.

Reminding them through verses 7-10...

- That they are redeemed.

We are redeemed as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A letter written to Christians.

Many of us already know what redemption is – or we have had it taught to us – many times we talk about it as we take part in the Lord's Supper.

In the New Testament there three Greek words that go with the teaching of redemption.

Studying this through brings to mind that of a slave market – this being tied to this theme of redemption.

- The Ephesian believers would have known what a slave market was.

In the Roman and Greek world – and maybe even to the Jews living in Ephesus.

- To us it may seem a little foreign.

We may have knowledge of and some understanding when it comes to child slavery or sex slavery.

- Believers in the first century would have known exactly what a slave market is.

In the Greek one of the words that is used, is the word agorazo – the Greek word agora or marketplace comes from

- The idea of to buy.

Paul is saying that we have been redeemed by Jesus' blood – brought by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As we think about redemption – the truth of being forgiven of our sins.

- Taken to the thought that as sinful human beings we are like slaves at slave market.
- We are captive to sin – slaves to sin – it is our master – and we will serve it.
- We are being sold on a regular basis to the sinful lusts, desire and behaviours that we follow after.

It is our master we are bound to it.

- Through the shed blood of Jesus on the cross of calvary, he purchases us out of that slave market – this is the idea.

It starts with the precious blood of the lord Jesus Christ – that he shed as the purchase price for our salvation.

- This is also taught again by Paul in Colossians 1 – a sister book to Ephesians – encouraged to read through the book of Colossians – Paul teaching the same things in each of the books – but from a different perspective – giving is a robust understanding.

Colossians 1:13-14 Christian Standard Bible

¹³ He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. ¹⁴ In him we have redemption,^[a] the forgiveness of sins.

- Paul coming from the perspective of that when he rescues us – he ransoms us – part of the redemption process – Jesus paying the price that was needed to free us.
- We are brought from the domain of darkness.
- Being blind – being in darkness – we live out sinful desires – sinful thoughts – we have corrupt attitudes – groping in the dark as sinful people.

But yet Jesus purchases us with his blood.

1 Peter 1:18-21 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁸ For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors (a broader picture),

- Living after things that cannot satisfy – pursuing vanity after vanity.
- Never being satisfied – never really living the life that God desires for us to live.

not with perishable things like silver or gold,

- On the slave market those that wanted to purchase the slave – they would look over the slaves to see that they were strong enough – if the woman were worth having children with – then they would purchase them with silver and gold.

Peter says not like this but...

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.

²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was revealed in these last times for you. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

- This is the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are redeemed we are not just purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ – he didn't just pay the price.

The next Greek word is Exagorazo – to buy out of the marketplace – he purchased us never to return there again.

- The problem with the slave in the first century market – if the slave owner got tired of the slave – they had lived out their usefulness – they would take them back to the slave market and sell them to somebody else.

But for us that have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour we are never to return to the slave market again.

- Sin is not our master anymore.

There is a third word where the two other words go together hand in glove.

Lutro – to set free – to lose.

- Tied to the word ransom.

Speaks to what we have learnt here.

- When we are redeemed, we are not just bought – he didn't pay the purchase price by his precious blood – but he brought us never to be sold again to the slave market of sin – and then he set us free.

Jesus says that if the son sets you free, you are free indeed.

Scripture telling us that we are servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- God is our master and lord.

But we have complete freedom in Christ.

Sin doesn't have to have power over us – control over our lives.

2 Peter 1 – "We have all things that pertain to life and godliness by the power of Christ.

- We can lead victorious lives because we have been redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Point # 1 – Paul tells us that in Him, we have redemption through His blood.

- The forgiveness of our trespasses.

Point # 2 – We are forgiven.

- We are forgiven of our sins.

Past, Present and Future.

- We are no longer under the power of sin.
- We are forgiven the penalty of sin.
- We are free from the presence of sin in our lives.

The psalmist as he is thinking about the grace of God - the salvation of God – the forgiveness of God – the mercy of God – he says...

[Psalm 32 Christian Standard Bible](#)

Psalm 32

The Joy of Forgiveness

Of David. A *Maskil*.

¹ How joyful is the one
whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered!

- He was crying out in joy to the Lord because God forgave him of his sins.

² How joyful is a person whom
the LORD does not charge with iniquity
and in whose spirit is no deceit!

- God does not charge us with our sins or hold this against us anymore when we place our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a beautiful picture.

Paul is reminding the Ephesian believers that blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- When we can declare His glory and his grace and his awesomeness – Why?

Because we reminded of what God has done for each and every one of us who have put our faith and trust in Christ.

Question – How can we not say, “God I just want to praise you for all that you have done for me, I didn’t deserve it, there is nothing that I could have done to ever merit this”.

- He lavished His grace upon us.
- According to the riches of His grace, that he richly poured out in us.

Question – Have we ever thought about the grace of God in our lives?

- Has it brought us to place where just want to praise God – for who He is and what He has done.

We take it for granted – sometimes thinking that we are owed it.

- God’s unmerited favour toward us.

When we are reminded that we are redeemed and that we are forgiven it helps us to better understand what John says in 1 John.

- The reality of it is in our corruption sinful flesh we are still going to wrestle with sin.
- Though we don’t have the penalty of sin against us anymore.
- That the presence of sin doesn’t have to be something as dominant in our lives.
- The sin has no power over us at all.

There are still times when we wrestle with the sinfulness of the flesh, but as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ John reminds us that – “If we confess our sin, he faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleans us from all unrighteousness”.

- Paul says that this is something to extol God about – praise Him and bless Him.

Point # 3 – He is enlightening us.

- “We are enlightened” – W.A. Criswell – sums up what verse 8 says – after we have been reminded that we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding – he has enlightened us.

Wisdom and Understanding in this particular context.

Similar writers having different things to say.

McArthur – summed up these two words.

When talking about wisdom that he richly poured out us with all wisdom and understanding – some translations – insight – McArthur says this... The second result or redemption for the believer is being given wisdom and insight.

Wisdom here emphasises understanding of ultimate things such as life and death, God and man, righteousness and sin, heaven and hell, eternity and time.

- Paul is speaking of wisdom concerning the things of God.

As believers God has also given us wisdom – understanding of these deep things that relate to God.

- We have a better understanding of who God is and his holiness and His majesty – His omniscience – His omnipresence – His omnipotence.
- We have a better understanding of us and our sinfulness and our desperate need to be saved.
- A better understanding of heaven and hell – and where people will spend eternity.
- We have a better understanding of righteousness.

As we understand these things, we should be able to communicate them to people who desperately need to understand them – because we have been taught this by God through the Holy Spirit.

But then there is the insight – in the CSB understanding.

- McArthur says. it emphasises the practical understanding – the comprehension of needs and problems and principles of everyday living, it is spiritual prudence in handling the daily affairs.

Is it surprising that Paul says these things – Paul taking time through the book of Ephesians to remind the believers of the deep theological doctrinal things, so that when he gets to the practical everyday things, they have the grounding that they need to live it out.

It shouldn't be a surprise then to us after Paul reminding us of these things that he can in Ephesians 4 verses 30 and following...

30 And don't grieve God's Holy Spirit. You were sealed by himⁱⁿ for the day of redemption.

Question – What does he mean by **grieve God's Holy Spirit?** – How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?

- When we sin, we grieve the Holy Spirit – it breaks God's heart when we do that.

He goes on to say...

31 Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice.

Question – Why?

- Because we have been delivered, we have been redeemed.

He goes on...

³² And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave youⁱⁿ in Christ.

- If we really understand the grace of God – the gospel of Jesus Christ – really understand the redemption and the forgiveness of sins – then our lives will not be defined by bitterness or slander – or anger or malice.

We are going to live being kind to one another – compassionate and willing to forgive.

The hope is that this resonates with us!

There are times when we fail with kindness and compassion – fail to forgive those who I think have offended me.

- But as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should not be reluctant to convey grace, when we understand the grace that we have received from the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We shouldn't be unwilling to forgive – as we understand how we have been forgiven by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Think about what Peter said to Jesus in the gospels.

"How many times do I forgive someone who has offended me"?

Was Jesus' response 7 times? – No – "Seventy times seven"!

We are not to be chalking up how many times we have forgiven somebody – Jesus is challenging his disciples – challenging us – we are to forgive and forgive and forgive ...

The practical outworking of what we know as believers.

Consideration given to how sometimes Christians face death, sometimes we will do everything we can to keep living on this earth.

- We get discouraged when the healing doesn't come.
- The meds don't work.
- We wrestle with that when we see loved ones going through these things.

But if we look at the way Paul approached these things as he really understood with the insight and understanding that God had given to him.

Paul said – “For me to live is Christ” – as long as I am on this earth it gives me an opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with everybody I can – but what does he say? – “For me to die is gain”.

- This is having the deep spiritual things that we understand impact the everyday practical living.

We could look at that it is okay for those who look relatively healthy – but we have no idea how much time we have.

Question – So do we understand the wisdom, knowledge and understanding that God has given to us, so that we live out practically what we know from the word of God?

Christian – Maybe we have been reminded of something today – that is okay – because it is important to be reminded of the truths of scripture – because they impact how we live our lives.

Ephesians 1:9 Christian Standard Bible

⁹ He made known to us the mystery of his will,

- For the Jewish community when they understood what redemption was all about it would have taken them back to the goats on the day of atonement, one being sacrificed, and blood being sprinkled in the most holy place – in the court of meeting.
- And then second one having Aaron's hands laid on it, and the sins of the people being laid on that goat to be taken out into the wilderness.

- This was a one-time temporary sacrifice – year in and year out – it was not the ultimate sacrifice.

This was a shadow of what was to come in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is saying the mystery of God's will has been made known to us. We know now.

- The Lord Jesus Christ came that...

according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the right time^[e]—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

Question - Do we have a better love, appreciation and gratitude and praise for Almighty God?

Trusting that it makes us want to praise him all the more.

Lyrics from a hymn by John Wesley – if nothing else they should make us want to praise God all the more – translate into our everyday Christian lives.

O for a thousand tongues to sing My dear Redeemer's praise

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing

my great Redeemer's praise,

the glories of my God and King,

the triumphs of his grace!

2. He breaks the power of cancelled sin,

he sets the prisoner free;

his blood can make the foulest clean;

his blood availed for me.

3. He speaks and listening to His voice,

new life the dead receive,

The mournful broken hearts rejoice,

The humble poor believe.

4. To God all glory, praise, and love

be now and ever given.

by saints below and saints above,

the Church in earth and heaven.

Question – Do we want to praise God with every fibre of our being because we have been redeemed – been forgiven and been enlightened?

If you don't know Christ as your Lord and savior, we just got done talking about the extent to which the Lord Jesus went for your salvation to redeem, to ransom you, to purchase you from the slave market of sin. That you're right now a slave to sin, doing what it wants in your life. But you can have freedom in Christ, you can have forgiveness of your sins, you can spend eternity with Almighty God and enjoy him now, in a personal relationship. Trust Christ as your Lord and Savior today believe in the gospel of salvation that you heard preached today.