

“We Have Redemption!”

Ephesians 1:7-10

INTRODUCTION: *Instruments go out of tune* and need to be re-tuned. Let me try to *tune up our goal for studying Ephesians*. How does this book *move us toward Christian maturity*. Are you a mature Christian? Have the truths in Ephesians **challenged** you to *think and live* as a **mature follower** of Christ? This is our **dual purpose** for studying this **brilliant epistle** of Paul.

Scripture **exhorts** us to be mature in Christ. **1 Cor. 14:20**

*“Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your **thinking be mature.**” Heb. 4:14 “But solid food is **for the mature,** for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” 1 Cor. 2:6 “We do, however, speak a message of wisdom **among the mature,** but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.” Phil. 3:15 “All of us, then, **who are mature** should take such a view of things.” Col. 4:12 “that you may stand firm in all the will of God, **mature and fully assured.**” Js. 1:4 “Let perseverance finish its work so that you may **be mature and complete,** not lacking anything.”*

What is a mature person? Mature believers *think great thoughts about God*; they have the *capacity for great love* for others, which enables them to *be sacrificial*; they are *not obsessed with their own desires, passions, appearance or opinions*; as a result they have a *large measure of self-discipline* in everything they do. They *know how to persevere* to the end of any project they tackle.

Their **value system** is not upside down; they **love what God values**. They **don't give their lives to trinkets** and cast real treasures **aside**. They **don't whine** when **persecution or hard times** inevitably come into their lives. They are **saturated with and ruled by** the Word of God and have a **strong desire for Christ's second coming** and eternal kingdom.

Ephesians takes us a long way down this road of maturity!

What does immaturity look like? The **very opposite** of all I've just described as mature.

We have been **digging deeply** into the **2nd longest sentence** in the Bible for a half dozen sermons now! **Eph 1:3-14 (268 words)**. (The **genealogy** of Jesus found in **Lk 3:23-38** is the **longest** at **467 words!**)

Today we **drill down** on some **key phrases** in **Eph. 1:7-10** **"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace & that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ."**

"In him..." Notice **V.4** "For he chose us **in him...**" **V.6** "...which he has freely given us **in the One He Loves** (in the Beloved)." **V.7** **"In him** we have redemption..." **V.9** "...which he purposed **in Christ.**" **V.11** **"In Him** we were also chosen..." **V.12** "...the first to hope **in Christ.**"

V.13 “And you were also included *in Christ...*” **V.13** “...having believed, you were marked *in Him* with a seal.”

By mere repetition, Paul makes a **powerful point** = *all God's spiritual blessings come to us ONLY in the person of Jesus Christ*.

He is the fountainhead of everything we enjoy from God the Father! We are chosen “in Christ” – this is such an **important phrase**!

It means that in God's mind, from all eternity, *we were spiritually united to Christ*. That means, when God thought - in eternity past- of what Christ would accomplish on the Cross in time and space, **He knew** it would be *perfectly sufficient for our complete forgiveness*. Nothing about us or what we would ever do in ourselves was the *basis* of being put “*in Christ*.” God's eternal decision was based completely on what Christ would accomplish on our behalf.

From eternity we were *hidden in Christ, covered* by Christ, *joined* with Christ, *viewed by God* as though we were as righteous as Christ. **Our security** is “*in Christ*”; **our position** is solidly *in Christ*, **our acceptance** is *in Christ*, **our eternal hope** is *in Christ*! We can never be “*out of Christ*” or “*separated from Christ*” or “*cut off from Christ*” or “*rejected by Christ*”!! With an economy of words, God gives all the security we would need for a lifetime! Mature believers **rejoice** in being “*in Christ*.”

“**we have redemption**” - *Redemption* implies liberation from captivity, bondage, or imprisonment. It involves the *payment of a ransom* to reclaim something that has been *held captive*.

Israel was liberated from the yoke of physical slavery in Egypt by God (Ex. 6:6-7). **New Covenant Christians** experience a “**spiritual exodus**”; a “**spiritual redemption**” from **slavery to sin**. We read in 1 Cor. 6:20 “**for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**” **Jesus clearly said** He came to “**give his life as a ransom for many.**” (Mk. 10:45)

But unsaved men are blind to their bondage! They **laugh at the idea** of being **slaves to sin**. They **love the delusion** that they are spiritually free and autonomous from God.

But what did Christ say? **Jn. 8:33-34** “**Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**” “**They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”** They were **oblivious to their slavery** to sin! The **non-Christian** is a slave to sin and **Satan holds him hostage forever** unless Christ **liberates** or **redeems** him.

However no one is strong enough to liberate an unbeliever from – 3 **unbreakable chains!** (1) **the power of Satan** --(2) **the curse of the law** -- (3) **his love for sin.**

God **broke the power** of Pharaoh to free Israel from physical captivity. **Jer. 31:11** “**For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.**” If Pharaoh was too strong for the Israelites, surely **Satan is way, way too strong** for all men who are captive of sin.

Satan is called the strong man in **Mt. 12:29**, whose house **can't be plundered unless someone stronger** than he is comes and ties him up with a rope (**Mt.12:29**). Jesus is stronger than the strong man!

The **same idea** is expressed in a different way in **Isaiah 49:24** "*Can the prey be taken from the mighty man, Or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?*"

Christ has redeemed us from **the captivity of Satan!** Christ has **plundered Satan's house** and set us from the **trap of the devil** who **held us captive** to do his will! (**2 Tim. 2:26**). Christ **takes Satan's captives** and **makes them His adopted** sons and daughters!

Secondly, we have been **redeemed from the curse of the law**- **Gal. 3:10** "*For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."*

What is the "curse of the law"? It is the **penalty that the law demands** from all who **do not keep the law perfectly!** Since NO ONE can keep the law perfectly, **all who depend on their own attempts at perfect obedience** are cursed with what the law says **will happen** to them- **eternal condemnation.**

But look at **Gal. 3:13** "*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.*" Not only the **power of the devil**, but the **curse of the law** was far, far **beyond our capacity of achievement.** The point is, we could never REDEEM OURSELVES!

The **third thing** Jesus redeemed us from is *our deadly love affair with our own sin*. Unsaved people love their sin, they love their perceived freedom to live and sin as they wish. They **don't want to come** into the light of salvation.

2 Tim. 3 gives a long list of what people are like: *"People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money..."*

John 3:19-20 *"And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed."*

Rom. 8:5ff. *"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires...the sinful mind is hostile toward God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so."*

Mature believers rejoice that Jesus Christ *has redeemed them from these 3 unbreakable chains* that *enslaved their souls!*

He redeemed us with His *precious blood*, the blood of a lamb without blemish or defect! (1 Peter 1:18-19).

"through His blood" - *of all the phrases that stun me*, this one is the most powerful! I think of my *beloved book of Hebrews!!* **No NT book speaks of blood more** than Hebrews (21 x's). The heartbeat of Hebrews is the *sufficiency of the blood of Christ our High Priest!* Quoting Leviticus, the author says in 9:22 *"...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."*

The NT teaches that we were “**purchased** by the blood of Christ” (Acts 20:28) – **justified** by his blood (Rom. 5:9) – **redeemed** by his blood (Eph. 1:7) – **brought near** to God by His blood (Eph.2:13) – **gained peace** with God by His blood (Col. 1:20)– **cleansed** by His blood(Heb.9:14) – **sanctified** by His blood (Heb.13:12) – **ransomed** by His blood (1 Peter 1:18-19) – **freed** by His blood (Rev.1:5)! O Precious Blood of Jesus!

This phrase points us to many realities about God and Jesus:

- (1) ***How seriously God esteems his own holiness*** – God sent His Son to vindicate God’s righteousness;
- (2) ***How unthinkably vile sin really is***, that it requires Christ’s blood sacrifice;
- (3) ***How complete Jesus’ obedience was*** to the Father – obedience unto death;
- (4) ***How essential the incarnation was*** – he took on flesh and blood to redeem those who were flesh and blood;
- (5) ***How precious to the Father His Son’s blood was.*** – ***He accepted it alone as the sufficient payment*** for the sins of His people.

What is the application of this sermon? The ***best thing I can ask you to do*** is to go on our new web site and ***download the manuscript*** of the sermon and ***use it for your personal devotional times*** this coming week. It is **only by careful meditation on the magnificent themes** from Ephesians that you will ***grow in your love and submission and maturity*** in Christ!

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Gaze upon His beauty! And **sing the new song** of **Revelation 5:9**
*“And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you
ransomed (purchased) people for God from every tribe and language
and people and nation.”*

Let’s pray.