

Who Are You?

Redeemed

Pastor James Bell

Ephesians 1:3–11 NLT

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. 8 He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. 9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. 11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

Within this series we have been uncovering our identity in Christ. The likeness and image of who we are in Him. These next two sermons will address the very key that gives us access to being the new creation in Christ.

Last week we spoke about the grace of God that has been poured upon us just as it was to Mary. The empowerment and favor of God that has appointed each of us for the call to bring heaven to earth. The call that fulfills his word and His will. But just as Mary had to humble herself and receive the word, she then could give birth to the word. This was what she was created for and each of us are no different. God's divine grace has been poured upon us when we bow our knee to His heart.

So our focus today is to convey verse 7.

Ephesians 1:7 NLT

7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son...

In other translations we see different word that produce the same meaning. Redeemed, deliverance, set free, purchased, redemption, and ransomed. The weight that is upon this word was something that the Jewish people would have been familiar with but the Gentiles never understood bondage and slavery. Although we now understand that Paul was speaking of spiritual redemption but to gain a deeper revelation we must go to the primary revealing of redemption within God's word.

Exodus 6:1–3 NLT

1 Then the LORD told Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh. When he feels the force of my strong hand, he will let the people go. In fact, he will force them to leave his land!" 2 And God said to Moses, "I am Yahweh—'the LORD.' 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—'God Almighty'—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them.

To bring an understanding of redemption we must first know the redeemer. Up to this point, God had only revealed Himself as God Almighty. Because only a few select people had met God but now God was about to introduce Himself to the whole world. This would happen by the Glory of God. His strong hand would sweep across the hardened heart of Pharaoh. So how will the whole world know God? By the display of His holiness. As the children of Israel traveled the wilderness many kingdoms would not approach them as they had heard of how their God had delivered them. All the world became familiar with the God of the Israelites and knew that death would accompany their kingdoms if they crossed paths with Israel.

As we can all recall the ten plagues that came upon Egypt as they continued to resist God's command. The commandment to release His people. God's word is final and just as he gave Pharaoh opportunity after opportunity we are no different. The question really becomes how much of God's wrath can we withstand? How long will we resist. I know this is a little off subject but can we deny the evidence of what happens to those who continually resist God's desires. How strong of hand does God need for us to hear and obey?

Exodus 6:4–8 CSB

4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land they lived in as aliens. 5 Furthermore, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are forcing to work as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. 6 "Therefore tell the Israelites: I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians and rescue you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the forced labor of the Egyptians. 8 I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD."

God reassures that He has heard the cries of His chosen people. And He acknowledges that they are slaves to Egypt. Their slavery meant that they were forced to serve. As a slave there was no other obligation or option. Refusal to do so meant death. The Egyptians didn't care about the Jews. They only cared for what the Jews had to do. Can we see the shadow of this same reality within ours and others lives? That when we are slaves to sin, we sin because it is who we bow a knee to.

But God heard the cry of people that wanted to be free. And the declaration found within 6 needs to be placed on urgency within each of us. Because God was doing two kinds of redemption. A deliverance from the oppression of the Egypt. This is one of the two and this is where some Christians operate under. They have been freed from sin. The blood of Jesus has eradicated their sins. And just as this was the first freeing for Israel, it is for us too. But way too often it stops here. We graciously accept our freedom in Christ as we know that it was nothing good that we did. But with the very same breath God continued with and rescue you from slavery. He knew that they had been in bondage for over 400 years and that the slave mindset would continue when they left Egypt. His will was to free them from a penalty but also a bondage. We are no different than the Israelites. We have been free from the penalty of sin but we are still slaves to sin. Look at how the Israelites responded to the very word of God.

Exodus 6:9 GNB

9 Moses told this to the Israelites, but they would not listen to him, because their spirit had been broken by their cruel slavery.

They would not listen. They rejected the very word that God had just declared over their life. Why did they reject it? Because their spirit was broken. This same thing is very evidence in the life of people that God desires to set free. When something is broken there is no longer a oneness. There is divide that has brought separation. This separation for the Israelites is from cruel slavery. The mindset of being a slave hindered them being free. The word of God declares this in John 8:31-32

John 8:31–32 NLT

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Who was Jesus talking to? Was it those who believe? Remember that the demons believe and tremble. Those who obey and Jesus set the record straight that those that truly belong to Him are the ones who obey (remain faithful). And He gives the

reassurance that those who have captured the revelation of this truth are freed because of receiving this truth. But Jesus doesn't stop there! Let's read on further.

John 8:33–36 ESV

33 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’?” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

All they heard was a communicated knowledge of truth but that is not what would free them. They heard the words of Jesus but not the voice of God. This same truth is happening right now all across America. People are hearing the word of God but because it is being communicated to them but they are not hearing the voice of God. It is revelation that the church must be built upon. What did Jesus say to Simon son of John? Upon this rock I will build my church. If there is no revelation of God then our churches and lives are built on communicated knowledge.

Anyone who practices sins is a slave to sin. What does it mean to practice something? One who regularly does something. This is the act of habitually sinning. And what Jesus says next is not received by the people and most of Christians. You know why it's not received? Because it goes against their theology. Do we read what we believe or do we believe what we read? Do we read the parts of blessing and avoid the corrections of God? Do you know what Paul called those individuals in the book of Timothy? Those with itching ears. Just tell me what I want to hear and not what I need to hear. Is this us?

Jesus said hard things but what He spoke was infallible. Look at John 8:35 “35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever.” The one who is enslaved is only a temporary member of the family. Jesus said that the tares and wheat would grow together and that they would be separated at the harvest. Those that are practicing sin remain enslaved and they are a part of the family now but their title will one day be stripped. Jesus said only the son is a part of the family forever. If you recall in part 4 of this series we address the identity of being adopted. And God's word declares that those that are led by the spirit are the sons of God. There are two greek words for sons. Teknon and huioi. One is biological child and the other is an heir or one who is adopted. This same mention of son that Jesus used was huioi. Those that remain faithful to His teachings.

Ephesians 1:7 NLT

7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son...

It is the only by the blood of Jesus that our sin debt is paid in full. The same blood that freed us from the penalty of sin is the same blood that frees us from the bondage of sin. When we accept by faith what Jesus did on the cross for us we take on his likeness and image. Everything that Jesus is, we now become. Turn to John 1:16

John 1:16 ESV

16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

We have been given the fullness of Jesus because of His grace. So why do we continue to hear people say "I'm just a sinner saved by grace"? If we have been redeemed and received the fullness of Jesus and then how are we sinners? Let me ask you a question. Does a lion give birth to a weasel? Does a thorough breed horse give birth to a worm? Then why are we just sinners saved by grace. The blood that Jesus so freely gave redeemed us from the lifestyle and practicing of sin.

1 John 4:15–17 AMP

15 Anyone who confesses (acknowledges, owns) that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides (lives, makes His home) in him and he [abides, lives, makes his home] in God. 16 And we know (understand, recognize, are conscious of, by observation and by experience) and believe (adhere to and put faith in and rely on) the love God cherishes for us. God is love, and he who dwells and continues in love dwells and continues in God, and God dwells and continues in him. 17 In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world.

Anyone is not limited to preachers, teachers, apostles, pastors, or evangelist. To all who confess that Jesus is the lamb that paid the full price of our sin and walks faithful to His word have been given the fullness of Christ and we live our lives unto God just like Jesus did when He walked this earth. When we refuse to exemplify a life that has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus we are still slaves to sin and have a Egypt/slavery mindset. Jesus paid to high of a price for us just so that we could be a mockery to His most Holy name.

Let me pray with you today!

