SERIES ON EPHESIANS, PART 7

TITLE: "THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST"

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LOCATION: SUNDAY SCHOOL AT SANTA CLARITA BAPTIST CHURCH

I. Introduction

II. Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:3

> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

III. Main Idea – The centerpiece of the Gospel is redemption through Christ's blood. While many downplay the significance of Christ's shedding of His own blood, we must continually emphasize it, for "without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22).

IV. The Text (1:7-8a)

A. The reality of our redemption – *In Him we have redemption*

- "*redemption*" refers to the release of slaves or prisoners
- Born as slaves to sin, we are imprisoned in a fallen body with no means to free ourselves (2:1)
- A ransom price is usually required to redeem someone, as is the case for us
- We need to be freed from slavery to <u>sin</u> (not from Satan, as some wrongly teach)

B. The means of our redemption – *through His blood*

- The ransom price to free us from sin is beyond money—it is nothing less than the *blood* of Christ (Matthew 20:28)

- Observant Jews understood "blood" to mean a "violent death" (Leviticus 17:11)

- God provided us with the means of understanding this through Mosaic sacrificial system (Leviticus 16:1-28)

- Without knowing the Old Testament, we cannot fully understand the full significance of the New Testament!

C. The accomplishment of our redemption – *the forgiveness of our trespasses*

- "*forgiveness*" refers to loosing someone from what binds them

- When Christ shed His *blood*, God sent our sins deep into the wilderness, just like the scapegoat (Leviticus 16:20-22)!

- God frees us from our sinful acts (*trespasses*) as well as our sinful condition in general (Colossians 1:14)

D. The power of our redemption – *according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us*

- Paul loves to describe God's grace with superlatives such as "*riches,*" used 6 times in Ephesians alone (1:7, 18; 2:4, 7: 3:8, 16)!

- God is always generous when He gives—so much so that words fail to express the magnitude of His grace toward us—He *lavished on us* such a profusion of *grace* that we will never exhaust its benefits!