

Opening: God's mystery kept from the beginning is Jesus, that Mystery is unfolded to us who believe.

Key Scripture: Ephesians 1:7-15 7In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.

11In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will, 12in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory. 13And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.

15For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.

A. Vs 1:7 7In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

- 1. Redemption in Greek is "apolutrosis" meaning to be ransomed. We have been ransomed by the blood. Our debt, our cost, our high value was paid once and for all time, we were kidnapped by the devil and Jesus delivered us. Think of the movie (Blood Diamond) the Father pursues His son who was kidnapped by evil.**

2. Remember it by His grace that we have received forgiveness. It is because His grace is so rich. Grace is unmerited favor in the Greek word “charis”. God’s bend toward us is to extend grace for our short comings.

B. Vs 1:8 8that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

1. Lavished is a wonderful word to convey the magnitude of this gift in Jesus. Lavish synonyms: rich, grand, splendid, costly, opulent, elaborate luxurious
2. God used great wisdom and understanding in the plan of redemption for humanity. He knew what it would take to deliver humanity from our sinful condition.
3. Consider that God chose us before the foundation of the world. This means God set a plan in motion for the redemption of humanity before He took the first act of creation. To do this God has to know all things in advance.
4. “Understanding” Greek “phronesis” mental action using intellectual and moral insight. God understood the fall of man and the cost of our sins before He ever created us.
5. God carefully thought out a plan of action, considering how the plan of redemption should be put together so that humanity would have an opportunity to serve and know Him after the fall in the Garden of Eden.
6. We are left with no other response but to worship and praise God. The natural desire of a heart that has received this grace is to give it away to others and to return one’s life back to the one who gave it.

C. VS 1:9-10 9And He has made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to bring all things in heaven and on earth together in Christ.

1. The mystery of His will: God’s will is supreme, the world has a purpose, a destination, a goal a victory.

2. God's will is to be known. What was once a mystery is a not a mystery anymore.
3. The mystery that God has desired to unfold has been unfolded. Be careful of Gnosticism which is the belief that God has hidden knowledge and that by the accumulation of hidden knowledge we will attain to more of God. What was hidden is now revealed in Jesus. Secret societies use Gnosticism to entice followers. God gives His wisdom and revelation to anyone who will follow Him.
4. God's Mystery is Christ: That God the Father would finish/ accomplish all things and submit all things to the Son Jesus Christ, while making Jesus the head of all things. This truth was a mystery that Paul is referencing in Ephesians 1:9-10
5. **"The fullness of Time"** this reference is Greek plērōmatos) which means "completion". Paul is saying all things pertaining to God's plan for the ages will come together in and under Christ at the end of Time itself. This declaration is therefore forward looking. This is significant because at present we see that evil seems to have opportunity, but in the near future God will put an end to all evil.
6. **Key point:** Remember that when the book of Ephesians was written the book of Revelation was not yet penned and the end of all things was still a mystery. John revealed the fulness of Time through the revelation God gave Him at the isle of Patmos.
7. **"All things in Heaven and earth together in Christ"**: There will be no more separation between God and man, there will be no more rebellion as all of creation will submit to Christ in the end. **1st Corinthians 15:8** also references the final submission.

D. Vs 1:11 In Him we were also chosen as God's own, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything by the counsel of His will,

1. God has chosen us as His inheritance, meaning just as God chose and worked in Israel, He has now chosen and is working in and for His people the Church.
2. “Predestined”: This simply means God initiated the process of redemption due to His foreknowledge and goodness that there should be a church that receives His grace and becomes His purposed inheritance.
3. We don’t just receive an inheritance we are His inheritance.
4. “Works out everything” This promise alone is reminding the believers that God is actively working for us according to His will to help us succeed. If we are His personal inheritance, it is for God’s own benefit that He succeeds. With a God so great and a grace so active and real we should not walk in worry or fear.
5. God’s will is non-negotiable, His will is perfect, and none will stop His full plan and desire from coming to pass. We are the created and He is the creator. This means that Satan will not be winning but losing. **Romans 8:28, Deuteronomy 4:20**

E. Vs 1:12 12in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory.

1. Placing our hope in Christ is not a vain thing. Those who placed their hope in Christ’s coming were fulfilled. God has kept His word. To offer his Messiah to the world.
2. “We who were the first to hope” Paul is referencing the early Jewish believers (Apostles) who were first fruits to God of the full number of the Jewish remnant that would be saved and connected to the engrafted gentile believers. This was done for the praise of His glory.

F. Vs 1:13 13And in Him, having (also) heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

1. We must hear and believe the gospel the “word of truth” How can someone believe on what they have not hear. We must share the gospel.
2. This verse explains the connection that Paul is connecting the gentile believers in Ephesus to the Jewish remnant that was saved.
3. What happens when we believe the gospel? We are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. This is the sealing of salvation when the Holy Spirit comes into a believer and seals us. The word in the Greek is (esphragisthēte), meaning a seal of security, protection, preservation, a declaration of righteousness, to keep secret/hidden.
4. This seal is not the Baptism of the Holy Spirit where we are clothed with power from on high.

G. Vs 1:14 14who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of His glory.

1. The Holy Spirit is part of the “down payment or security” of all that God has promised. He is the first portion of all that God has secured of what is going to be released to those who believe.
2. Understand that the purchase price was the blood of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is released upon those who have been paid for in full. The Holy Spirit cannot be given to a person who has not been paid in full.
3. God gives us a taste of what is to come in the person of the Holy Spirit who abides with us while we are on this earth.
4. Every touch of Heaven, every beautiful presence of God, every healing, miracle and blessing of God flows through the Holy Spirit who is God living within us. We must acknowledge The Holy Spirit and become more sensitive to God living in us.

Conclusion: This week, draw closer to God through the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and lead you, worship the Holy Spirit and pray in the Holy Spirit. The down payment of God is His precious Holy Spirit and He is yours through Jesus Christ.