

Sermon 3: Praising Christ for His Sacrificial Death: Ephesians 1:3-10

Text: Ephesians 1:3-10 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him..."

Introduction: The gospel

- God made us in His image, for His glory, and loves us.
- Though He loves us, we have a fatal problem that separates us.
- We are sinners who can do nothing to remove that identity and guilt.
- He is holy and will not compromise His justice by ignoring our guilt.
- The gospel is the good news that God in His wisdom and love has provided in Himself the only perfect resolution to this problem.
- This passage highlights the heart of that resolution.

Summary: God purposed in Himself to redeem us to Himself through Christ's willing sacrifice.

Proposition: We must understand the nature of this sacrifice and glory in it!

Part 1: The object of salvation: 1:3 "Blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ..."

- **We were: 2:1**
 - "Dead in trespasses and sins..."
 - "Children of disobedience..."
 - "Children of wrath..."
- **We are now: 1:3**
 - "Holy..."
 - "Without blame..."
 - "Adopted..."
 - "Accepted in the beloved..."

Part 2: The basis of salvation: 1:7 "In whom we have redemption..."

- **The Father purposed to redeem us: 1:8-9** "He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself
 - **"Wisdom and Prudence:"** There was a wisdom in this redemption.
 - **"Mystery of His will...Purposed in Himself:"** There was a logic in this redemption.
- **Christ paid for our redemption:**
 - **We have been released from insurmountable debt through the payment of an unrepeatable price:**
 - **We were estranged from God, indebted to Him, and under the law's curse.**
 - **He alone justly set the terms to resolve this indebtedness:**
 - **Christ paid our debt in full to forever resolve our debt:**
 - **Revelation 5:9** "Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood..."
 - **Galatians 3:13** "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us..."
 - **Romans 5:10** "When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..."
 - **2 Corinthians 5:18** "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ..."

Part 3: The cost of salvation: 1:7 "Through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace..."

- **He took on human flesh:** The focus of Christmas
 - **Galatians 4:4** "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman..."
 - **John 1:14** "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory..."
 - **Philippians 2:7** "Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men..."
- **He shed His blood for us:** The focus of the Lord's Table
 - **Hebrews 9:22-23** "Without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these..."
 - **Hebrews 10:4** "It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins..."
 - **Hebrews 10:10** "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all..."

- **Hebrews 9:26-28** "Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many..."
- **He died in our place: Substitution**
 - **He died on our behalf: ὑνέπ**
 - **1 Corinthians 15:3** "Christ died **for** our sins according to the scriptures..."
 - **Romans 5:8** "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died **for** us..."
 - **Corinthians 5:21** "He hath made him to be sin **for** us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him..."
 - **He died instead of us: ἀντί**
 - **Matthew 20:28** "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom **for** many..."
 - **1 Timothy 2:6** "Who gave himself a **ransom** for all, to be testified in due time..."

Part 4: The ends of salvation: 1:10 "In the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him..."

- **End 1: We have been redeemed to God:** Redemption is rich and intensely relational.
 - **Boaz redeemed Ruth from widowhood: Ruth 2:12** "The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust..."
 - **God redeemed His people out of captivity:**
 - **Isaiah 43:1-5** "Thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine... When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God...thou wast precious in my sight...I have loved thee...Fear not: for I am with thee..."
 - **Isaiah 44:1-6** "Hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen...I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring...Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his

redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God..."

- **God redeemed us out of enmity:**
 - **Colossians 1:20-23** "Having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself...you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight..."
 - **Romans 5:8-10** "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..."
- **End 2: We have been justified before God:**
 - **Negatively:** The cross has removed our guilt.
 - **Isaiah 53:11** "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities..."
 - **Romans 3:24** "Justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."
 - **Romans 5:9** "Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him..."
 - **Positively:** We have been justified in Christ's righteousness.
 - **Romans 3:20-22** "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin, But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe..."
 - **Romans 4:2-6** "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works..."
 - **Romans 5:19** "By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous..."
 - **Philippians 3:9** That I might be: "Found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but

that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith..."

Applying This Passage:

- **Gospel Clarity:** Christians must understand, affirm, and articulate the basics of the gospel faithfully.
- **Genuine Faith:** Genuine faith in Christ, must rest on an accurate understanding of the gospel
- **Worship:** God's wisdom, purpose, and love revealed in the gospel should stir up passionate worship.
- **Comfort:** Understanding the basis of salvation should bring rest and comfort to restless souls and troubled consciences.