

- I) **V7-12 INTRO: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins**
- II) **Paul is instructing the church at Ephesus concerning what it means to be a Christian**
- III) **The church began through Paul and then cared for by Aquila and Priscilla  
Paul had come to Ephesus on a mission trip and had left Aquila and Priscilla there  
Aquila began ministering to those who came to faith, and a church began to meet**
- IV) **Acts 19 records how Paul later returned to Ephesus (perhaps 1-2 years later)  
When he arrived he found some disciples of John the Baptist who lived in the city**
- V) **He asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit *when* they believed  
They said they had not heard of the Holy Spirit, having been baptized in John's baptism**
- VI) **Paul's response was to share Jesus the gospel, and they came to faith in Him  
After they were saved, they received water baptism and the baptism of the Spirit  
Ac 19:6 When Paul had laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied**
- VII) **This gives us insight into why Paul would desire to write this letter  
It was his desire that people not only come to faith in Jesus, but to *mature in Him*  
He desired believers to have all that the Lord desired for them to have**
- VIII) **Becoming a Christian is not just repeating a prayer and then just going on with our lives  
When someone is saved, they receive an entirely new life and a new way of life  
There is a change that occurs because the Spirit lives in you**
- IX) **When Paul spoke to John's disciples, he immediately discerned something was missing  
That something was the presence of the Spirit of God, and it was noticeably lacking**

- X) His desire was for Christians to enter in to the new life and not fall short of it  
 Jesus made it clear that He could provide what no one else could  
 Jn 6:35 Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life: he who comes to me shall never hunger; and he who believes on me shall never thirst.
- XII) Paul desired them to live in the blessings that God has already provided for them  
 He wanted them to fully grasp what they had in Jesus, and that it was real
- XIII) They lived in the midst of an extremely beautiful yet terribly corrupt city  
 Because of its cosmopolitan flavor opportunity to indulge the flesh was always present  
 To combat this draw, they needed to live in what they already had in Jesus
- I) Paul had begun reminding the church of the blessings they have in Jesus  
 In V3 he said: That we have been blessed with *every spiritual blessing*
- II) From there he began to list spiritual blessings that believers possess in Jesus  
 V4 FIRST: We have been chosen in Him before the foundation of the world  
 V5 SECOND: We have been adopted as sons and daughters by Jesus to Himself
- III) V6 God, by His grace, has made us *acceptable* to Himself through the *Beloved*  
 ACCEPTED: To surround with favor; to make agreeable; to honor with blessings
- IV) The Beloved is another way of referring to Jesus  
 Mt 3:17 A voice came from heaven saying This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased
- V) We become *acceptable to God* because His grace provides salvation through Jesus  
**Gal 2:16 Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.**
- VI) At this point Paul continues writing about the

## **blessings we have received in Jesus**

VII) V7 In Him we have redemption through His blood

Redemption: Regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment

The clearing of a debt

VIII) In the '60's we had what were called S & H Green Stamps, or Blue Chip Stamps

They were a loyalty program for customers. You'd go to a grocery store or gas station, make a purchase and be given stamps in proportion to the dollar amount of the purchase. You'd paste the stamps in a book, collect a number of books and then go to the redemption center and get you dishes, lawn furniture, dining table or waffle maker!

IX) In the NT Redemption is used to speak of how the Lord has purchased us

It is the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil

X) I will develop this for a moment

XI) In the NT, there are two Greek legal words that are related to *redemption*

By combining these words we can get a more full insight into what it speaks of

XII) FIRST: Agorazo (exagorazo): These are related terms, referring to buying, or purchasing

I) In Greek, an agora is a marketplace

Agorazo/exagorazo speaks of buying something out of a marketplace  
(Marie's blouse)

II) In the NT, this speaks of a spiritual purchase, or redemption

It speaks of God redeeming, or purchasing, us from the marketplace of sin

III) There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> word: Lutroo: To release from captivity by paying a ransom

This is paying a ransom in order to release a person from bondage  
(especially slavery)

IV) Ever since the fall, all mankind has been slaves to sin and corruption

All have been in spiritual bondage to a nature in constant, active rebellion against God

V) Before redemption, we are all in bondage to our *sin nature*

**Ro 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?**

**VI) Sin holds us captive and, in requires a payment for our release**

**Jn 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, truly, truly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abides not in the house forever: but the Son abides forever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.**

**VII) In *spiritual* redemption, death is the only payment acceptable**

**Lev. 17:11 The life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul.**

**VIII) What was the price of redemption that was paid: The blood of Jesus shed on the cross**

**God Himself paid the price when He sent His Son to die for us  
Mk 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many**

**IX) During NT times, Rome had approximately 6 million slaves**

**If I was free but my friend was a slave, I could redeem him out of slavery  
After paying the price, I would write a certificate and then could set him free**

**X) Jesus is the friend of sinners, and this is what He has done for us**

**Mt 11:19 Tells us that Jesus was called a friend of sinners**

**XI) V7 We have *redemption through His blood*, and have been set free from sin's bondage**

**He died on the cross, paying the *redemption price* for all who believed and set us free**

**I) V7 This was accomplished *according* to the riches (abundance, wealth) of His grace**

**According to speaks of the vast revenue and resources of God's grace**

**II) He didn't give us redemption simply *out of* His grace**

**He gave us redemption *according* to His grace**

**III) If Elon Musk gave *out of* his abundance, a billion dollar gift would not be that**

much

277.4 billion: spending \$1 million per day would take around 760 years

to spend

IV) If he gave *according* to his abundance, his gift would be much greater  
God gave us according to the riches of His grace

V) God's grace is not only given according to His riches, but it is *lavished upon us*

His grace covers the complete extent of our sinfulness

VI) He does not barely cover us with grace, He lavishly gives us superabundance of grace

And His grace is given to us, freely (2:7)

Ro 3:24 (we) all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

VII) V7 Paul makes it clear that it is In Christ that we have the forgiveness of *our sins*

VIII) People often explain sin away by making excuses for their choices and lifestyles

My personality, addictions, parents, environment, education, my culture, poverty, etc

VIII) These are what are called the works of the flesh, springing from our sin nature

**Gal 5:19-21 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

IX) The Bible teaches that sin doesn't cease on its own, and does not go away over time

It must be confessed, repented of, and turned away from: if not we remain in bondage

Pr 29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

X) When Paul speaks of the forgiveness of sin, he is teaching us that Jesus *takes*

away sin

**FORGIVENESS: Literally, bears it away (Jesus removes, takes away our sin)**

**Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west so far has He *removed* our transgressions from us (1 Jn 1:9)**

**I) Our sin can never outstrip God's grace because God's grace abounds towards us**

**We should never think that our sins are too great to be forgiven: God's grace abounds**

**Ro 5:20 Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**

**II) A key to the victorious life in Jesus is to trust that God has truly forgiven us of our sins**

**No matter how deeply we have sinned, when we repent God truly forgives us**

**Ps 32:3-5 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah**

**III) V8 In redemption, we have forgiveness of sins as well as wisdom and prudence**

**Because we are saved we now have two things we did not previously have**

**IV) Wisdom: Understanding ultimate things (life, death, heaven, hell, righteousness, sin)**

**These are given to us in God's word, which instructs us about living in this world**

**Pr 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding**

**V) Prudence: Spiritual Insight: a practical understanding for daily life and how to live**

**Pr 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge and discretion.**

**VI) Prudence is wisdom applied and practiced on a daily basis**

**This is what equips us to live in peace as well as to share this with others**

VII) V9 Having made known to us the *mystery* of His will according to His good pleasure

God has made known to us His plan of redemption of grace through faith

VIII) This plan of salvation by faith was at one time hidden but is now revealed in the gospel

It has been pleasing to God to now reveal His plan which is centered on Jesus

IX) This plan originated with the Father and is pleasing to Him

Is 53:10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord makes His life an offering for sin, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

X) V10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one

MYSTERY: God has made known something that at was hidden but is now revealed

This mystery: Gentiles can partake in the blessings once reserved for Jews (2:11-13)

Ro 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

I) V10 He did this to gather together (sum up) in one all things in Christ  
This begins in the Millennial Kingdom and continues into eternity

II) At the end of the 1000 years Satan's influence is eliminated and Jesus rules and reigns

The paradise lost by Adam is restored by Jesus

Phil 2:10-11 At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

III) V11-12 In Him also we have *obtained an inheritance* being predestined according to the

Inheritance: (OT concept) the tribe of Levi did not inherit a portion of the Promised Land

For Levi: Fellowship with and service to God was their Inheritance (Dt 10:9)

IV) The believer's inheritance is God Himself and the blessings that come from

**fellowship**

**Jn 17:3 This is life eternal, that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent**

**V) The inheritance is primarily future but became ours when He died**

**Heb 9:15-17 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance --now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.**

**VI) V11 In whom we have obtained an inheritance being predestined according to This is something in the future so certain that Paul speaks as if it already has occurred**

**VII) V11 The inheritance that is ours in Christ is now revealed from two perspectives**

**FIRST: God's perspective: God works according to the counsel of His own will**

**Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure they are and were created.**

**VIII) V12 That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory**

**SECOND: God chooses but we respond and trust in Christ**

**Someone has pictured the divine and human sides of salvation in this way: When you look toward heaven you see a sign that reads, "Whosoever will may come," and after you enter heaven you look back to that same sign and read on the other side, "Chosen in Him before the foundation of the world."**