

Blessed!

Week 2—Ephesians 1:7-14

INTRODUCTION

You are....

He has Redeemed and Forgiven Us (vs. 7-8a)

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us.

"redemption"

"forgiveness"

"If man had his way, the plan of redemption would be an endless and bloody conflict." (A.W. Tozer)

Related passage: 1 Peter 1:18-19

He has Revealed to Us and Included Us in the Mystery of His Will (8b-13a)

He Has REVEALED to Us the Mystery of His Will (8b-10)

With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Related passage: Ephesians 3:1-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10

He Has INCLUDED Us in the Mystery of His Will (11-13)

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

He has Sealed Us by His Spirit (13b-14)

He Sealed Us (vs. 13b)

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...

In the ancient world, a seal signified several things: ownership and security. Biblehub.com puts it this way:

[This] signifies *ownership* and the full *security* carried by the backing (full authority) of the owner. "Sealing" in the ancient world served as a "legal signature" which guaranteed the promise (contents) of what was sealed.

Related passage: John 14:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:5

He is a Deposit Guaranteeing Our Inheritance (vs. 14)

¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Related passage: 1 Corinthians 2:7-10

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. What are the differences between being redeemed and forgiven? How does that impact you?
2. What is the mystery that has now been revealed to us?
3. How does it make you feel to know that you have been "included" in the people of God?
4. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit "sealing" us?
5. In what specific ways are you grateful for the above?