

THE REDEPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST

EPH. 1:7-10

Introduction:

- A. We know that we have innumerable blessings.
 - 1. God's declaration of His work for us.
 - a. Psalm 40:5 "many, O lord my god, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward...they are more than can be numbered."
- B. God's blessings flow through Jesus Christ.
 - 1. 1:3.
 - 2. He is God's channel of blessing manward.
 - 3. In Him is our desire!
- C. Redemption is a work of Christ.
 - 1. It is God's way of saving in Christ all that Adam lost in the fall.
 - 2. Redemption is "in him."

I. CHRIST HAS REDEEMED OUR SOULS. V7

A. "In whom we have redemption."

- 1. redemption = apolutrosis = releasing on receipt of ransom.
- 2. We were held in bondage, unable to affect our own release.

Sons of God; born again, translation, redemption, atonement, justification.

B. "through his blood."

- 1. The equal gift of the price of redemption was not Jesus, but His blood.
- 2. Heb. 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

3. I Peter 1:18-21.
4. Christ's blood was Satan's demand.

C. "the forgiveness of sins."

1. forgiveness = aphesis = discharge, setting free.
2. Because of His blood paying the ransom we can walk away from our sins, we are discharged from their consequence.

D. "according to the riches of his grace."

1. rich = plousis = abounding in riches.
2. All of this can be accomplished because of His super-abounding grace.

I. CHRIST HAS REVEALED HIS WORK. V8-9

A. "wherein he hath abounded toward us."

1. abounded = perisseuo = to be over and above, more than enough.
2. God gave us more than enough.

B. "in all wisdom and prudence."

1. wisdom = phronasis = the fruit of sophia = cleverness, skill, a right application of knowledge, practical wisdom.
2. prudence = good sense in the management of affairs, intention, purpose.

C. "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will."

1. made known = gnohisas = to make known.
2. mystery = musterion = an unrevealed fact.
3. His will has been a progressive revelation.
4. His will about what?

D. "according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself."

1. good pleasure = eudokia = a being well pleased, free and willing purpose with a good design.

2. purposed = prothesis = pro-thesis = a setting forth or before, what one sets before his mind.
3. in himself = God set His plans before Himself for His approval, not man's!

III. THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF REDEMPTION. U10

A. "That in the dispensation of the fullness of time."

1. dispensation = oikonomia = administration of a household, the administrative activity of the owner or steward.
2. The way the owner of a house would arrange all the furniture and control the ultimate outcome of a house, so God follows a plan for his universe.
3. fullness of time = pleroma = that with which anything is filled or of which it is full, the contents.
4. When God's measuring device is filled with time, then it is time to act, as an hour glass is filled with sand.

B. "he might gather together in one all things in Christ."

1. "anakephalaiosasthai - to gather again under one head, to sum up, to gather up into one. (For this word, s. Barth; Robinson; Abbot.) The prep. in compound refers to the prior dispersion of the elements and the substitutive of the verb describes the ultimate aggregation in one; thus the whole compound involves the idea of "unity" effected out of diversity, (lightfoot notes) The inf. is used to explain the preceding."
2. all things = things in heaven and in earth.

C. "both which are in heaven (the heavens) and which are on the earth."

1. God plans to unify that which is fragmented.
2. Nothing is right that is separated from God's control and the lordship of Jesus.

IV. THE FULFILLMENT. REV. 5:1-14

A. "who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"

1. worthy = axios = worth, equal value, or like worth.
2. Who can fill the role of redeemer?

B. The answer. v3

1. "No man."
2. "and I wept much."

C. Who is worthy?

1. v5.
2. v9.
3. v12.

D. I Tim. 6:13-16.

1. v16, "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords."
2. Rev. 11:15 "The kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our lord, and of His Christ: and he shall reign forever and ever."

