

REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

(Ephesians 1:7)

Praising God for the glory of His saving work is the theme of Paul's doxology in Ephesians 1:3-14. Paul is ascribing worship and praise to God for He reveals Himself as a saving God. In verses 4-6, Paul praises God because the Father has chosen us in Christ and adopted us to be His children. In verses 7-10, Paul blesses God because the Son, our Lord Jesus, has redeemed us with His blood and provided complete forgiveness for our sins. In verses 11-14, Paul exalts God because the Holy Spirit has guaranteed our eternal inheritance in heaven. As we turn to Ephesians 1:7, we will consider three glorious truths about our redemption in Christ.

1. *Our redemption in Christ sets us free from* _____.

The word redemption means setting someone free from the bondage of slavery through the payment of a price (Eph. 1:7). In the ancient world, you could be a slave in three ways: slavery by birth, by conquest and by indebtedness. These various means of falling into slavery correspond with how the Scriptures speak of our own enslavement to sin. Every person is born captive to sin (Psalm 51:5; Rom. 7:14; John 8:34). Sin is a cruel tyrant which conquers, dominates and defiles the whole person (Psalm 19:13; Rom. 6:12; 7:8). Sin is also portrayed in the Scriptures as our spiritual indebtedness to God in light of our failure to obey the holy law of God (Matt. 6:12). All of us, apart from Christ, are helplessly and hopelessly enslaved to sin. From this captivity, there is no escape by human and natural means. But praise God, He provided the only way of escape from the tyranny of sin through Christ's redeeming work. Redemption is the glorious work of our Lord Jesus Christ in setting us free from our slavery to sin's penalty and power through His sacrificial death on the Cross. The price of our redemption is the very precious life of our Redeemer (Titus 2:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 1:5; 5:9).

2. *Our redemption in Christ secures the* _____.

The word forgiveness literally means releasing a person, canceling one's debt or removing the penalty. The term for sin that Paul uses in this text is trespass which depicts our wandering away from God and crossing or violating the boundaries of His will (Eph. 1:7). When God forgives, He releases us from the guilt of our trespasses, cancels our moral and spiritual indebtedness and removes the punishment for our sins. This costly act of forgiveness is at the expense of Jesus' substitutionary suffering and death on Calvary (Isa. 53:5-6). Forgiveness in Christ is full, final, complete, permanent and secure (Psalm 103:10-12; Isa. 43:25; 1 John 1:7).

3. *Our redemption in Christ springs from the* _____.

Our redemption and the forgiveness of our sins spring from the wealth and riches of God's inexhaustible grace. God's grace is His free, unmerited and undeserved favor towards unworthy sinners (Eph. 1:7). God's redeeming grace is in accord with the vastness of God's infinite grace. There is no sin too great which is beyond God's forgiving grace (Isa. 55:6-7).
