

Redemption

Ephesians 1:3-8

Introduction: The grandest theme in the Bible is redemption. It is the purpose behind all that God has done through Christ. In Eph. 1:7 we find a summary of the main characteristics involved in God's plan of redemption. It is in this verse that we learn the **meaning**, the **cause**, and the **cost** of redemption.

I. The cause of redemption: "Grace."

A. Sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2).

B. Ezek. 18:20 says, "The soul who sins shall die..." The sentence of death rest upon all who sin.

C. Since man is unable to direct his own ways (Jer. 10:23), God has provided a way for us to escape eternal death. This is where GRACE comes in. Grace is God's favor that man does not deserve (Eph. 2:3-8).

1. God didn't have to make a way for us to have redemption.

However, God was gracious through His son. Grace is an unmerited favor.

2. God extends His grace for a purpose (Titus 2:11-14).

II. The meaning of redemption: "Forgiveness of sins."

A. In Eph. 1:7 and Col. 1:14 Paul equates redemption with the forgiveness of sins.

B. The word redeem itself means: to take by purchase, to buy back, to ransom.

1. The sinner is a slave who is in bondage to sin (Rom. 6:16-18).

2. In order for the slave of sin to be freed from his bondage, someone must pay the price (ransom). Once that price is paid, the slave is set free and he becomes a servant to the one who paid the price.

C. In other words, no person is redeemed except when forgiveness of sins has occurred. What price was paid for our forgiveness?

III. The cost of redemption: "His blood."

A. By all rights, if we commit sin, we should receive the punishment for our own transgression. The punishment for sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Yet, God was willing to give us a chance to be freed from sin in order to enjoy eternal life. Only God could arrange for the price of our transgressions.

B. Christ's blood was that price that was paid for our transgressions (1 Pet. 1:18-19). He died so we might receive eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12-14).

C. Yet, notice the requirement for the redeemed to serve.

1. If you were in prison and someone paid your fine, do you honestly think there is nothing you owe in return?

2. We owe Christ our service; we owe Christ our obedience (Heb. 5:8-9).

3. Our obedience requires us to be baptized (Acts 2:38). Christ expects us to be buried with Him in a like manner in which He died (Rom. 6:3-7). If we are buried with Christ in baptism, then we will be freed from sin. Isn't baptism a better alternative than being crucified for our own sins?

Conclusion: Have you been redeemed? Christ's grace has provided the price for our transgressions through His blood so that we can obtain forgiveness of our sins. Will you enter into Christ by being baptized into His death, into the benefits of His blood and thus being redeemed? "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).