

Message #1083
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"YOU ARE REDEEMED"
{Ephesians 1:3-14}

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INTRODUCTION

In our first two weeks of study of the Book of Ephesians we've discovered that...

...WE ARE SAINTS
...WE ARE RICH
...WE ARE A CITIZENS OF HEAVEN
...WE ARE A RECIPIENTS OF GOD'S GRACE
...WE ARE BLESSED
...WE ARE CHOSEN
...WE ARE ADOPTED
...WE ARE ACCEPTED

Today, we're going to investigate...

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE ADOPTED

Only those who have been adopted into God's family...and accepted by Him can say...

"In Him {Christ} we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with His riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding." {1:7-8}

So now we come to another insight...

1. WE HAVE REDEMPTION

The word used is "apolutrosts" meaning "ransomed." The word is used for...

...ransoming a person who is a prisoner of war or a slave

...freeing a person from the penalty of death for some crime

It is the same word used for God's deliverance of the children of Israel from their slavery in Egypt...

...the word used for God's continual rescuing of His people in the time of their trouble

In every setting it means "deliverance, redemption" or "setting free" of a person from a situation from which they are totally powerless to liberate themselves...

...from a penalty which the individual could never had paid

The Apostle Paul wants to make it abundantly clear that God delivered us from a situation from which we could never have delivered ourselves.

...that is precisely what Christianity does for all who believe!

At the time Paul wrote this there were six million slaves in the Roman Empire.

...they were bought and sold like pieces of furniture

...they were helpless individuals on the auction block

...they were totally powerless

...beaten down

...no self esteem

...no hope of a brighter tomorrow

...no great will to live

However, in the midst of this darkness there was a flicker of light at the end of the

tunnel for a select few for a person could purchase a slave and then set them free.
...they would be liberated
...they would discover genuine freedom for the first time.
That, dear ones, is precisely what Jesus Christ did for us--HE REDEEMED US!

From the cross Jesus cried out: "It is finished!" {John 19:30}--an interesting word in the original text: "tetelestai"--a commercial word which means: "It is paid, the debt is paid!"

Jesus paid the price...purchased our redemption...set us free!
The Bible tells us that we all are sinners! {Romans 3:23}
...it says "the wages of our sin is death!" {Romans 6:23a}
But, it also says: "...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!" {Romans 6:23b}
The gift of God is His GRACE--"God's Riches at Christ's Expense!"
Peter wrote...

"You were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers...by...the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect...!"
{1 Peter 1:18b-19}

Christ has set us free...redeemed us...

1. ...from the law {Galatians 5:1}
2. ...from slavery to sin {Romans 6}
3. ...from the power of Satan and the world {Galatians 1:4}

No longer slaves...but redeemed!

No longer alienated...but reconciled!

No longer powerless...but given authority!

No longer sinners...but saints!

Talk about an inheritance...

...talk about privilege...

...how blessed we are

2. WE ARE FORGIVEN

Three words go together: adoption...redemption...and forgiveness! Paul wrote of this in his letter to the Galatians-- "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to REDEEM those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons {and daughters}. Because you are sons {and daughters}, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but a son and daughter; and since you are sons and daughters, God has made you also an heir." {4:4-7}

Redemption...and forgiveness...is a present PRIVILEGE which we have to enjoy now!

...it makes it possible to be in relationship with God

...and it comes "in accordance with the riches of

God's grace THAT HE LAVISHED on us....!"

You are redeemed...and you can KNOW that you are forgiven!

..."forgiven" means "to carry away"

...Christ died on the cross to carry away our sins so they might never again be seen!

It was John the Baptist who said of Jesus: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" {John 1:29}

The Psalmist wrote of God's act of forgiveness: "...as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us!" {103:12}

Friends--no one can accuse us--our sins have been taken away!

...sin plunged us to the depths of poverty

...grace has made us rich!

3. GOD HAS REVEALED HIS WILL TO US

"And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure,

which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven

and on earth together under one head, even Christ." {1:9-10}

History has a purpose...it is moving towards a glorious goal!

The word "mystery" is not something mysterious in the sense that it is hard to understand...nothing to do with something eerie.

What is it then?

It is something that has long been kept secret and now has been revealed!

In chapter 3 the "mystery" is the inclusion of Gentiles in God's new society on equal terms with the Jews.

"This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus!" {3:6}

But here in chapter 1, God's plan is even more wonderful.."to bring ALL things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ!"

...God will one day unite everything in Christ!

...one day EVERYONE will acknowledge Him for who He is...

"God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above EVERY name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and EVERY tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." {Philippians 2:9-11}

With God--ALL history has a plan...

...ALL history has a purpose

...ALL history is in accordance with God's will!

OK--what does this all say to us? Those...

...who are "in Christ" now {1:1}

...who "in Christ" have received blessing {1:3}

..."election" {1:4}

..."adoption" {1:5}

..."grace" {1:6}

..."redemption and forgiveness" {1:7}

...will one day be perfectly united with Him {1:10}

So God's plan--God's will--is that "ALL things" which were created through Christ and for Christ, and which hold together in Christ {Colossians 1:16-17}, will finally be united under Christ by being subjected to His headship. For the New Testament declares Him to be "the heir of all things." {Hebrews 1:2}

...and we are joint heirs

...how rich we are!

And, this is the mystery the God has revealed to us! His plan for the ages!

CONCLUSION--GOD MADE US AN INHERITANCE

"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, in order that we who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory..." {1:11-12}

In Christ we have a wonderful inheritance...and in Christ we are an inheritance.

...we are valuable to Him

...think of the great price God was willing to pay to purchase/redeem us

We are joint-heirs with Christ Jesus...

"We are God's children...{and} if we are God's children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ..." {Romans 8:16b-17a}

Dear ones--

...we are redeemed

...we are forgiven
...we are ones to whom God has revealed His will
...we are co-heirs with Christ Jesus to God's riches!