



Introduction to Ephesians 1:7-10

Sunday, September 24, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

To be “redeemed” carries with it the image of a business transaction. When someone redeems something in business, they purchase it for their possession. In the same way, Christ has redeemed us by His blood. He has purchased us for His possession (1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). Being Christ’s possession, however, does not carry with it the implications of burden and obligation, but protection and blessing.

Paul says in Ephesians 1 that the redemption that Christians experience in Christ is actually one of the greatest spiritual blessings we can receive. To be Christ’s possession is to have our sins forgiven, meaning we won’t face the same judgment that awaits those who are not in Christ. To be redeemed includes giving us assurance of the grace of God—that we can be certain of our salvation not because of how good we behave, but simply because of what God has done for us in Christ. In all these ways, Christ demonstrates His love for us.

As a result of that, our main response should be gratitude. Gratitude, then, lays the groundwork for holiness and devotion under any circumstance.

Context

As Pastor Don noted, the entire section of 1:3-14 is actually a single sentence in the original text. Scholars have tried for years to figure out how it is organized within itself to no avail. It appears to be simply rapturous praise. What is important to note with clarity, however, is that this sentence sets up what is to follow. It is essentially a thesis sentence that will be explained and have implications drawn out throughout the rest of the letter. This sentence is the most important sentence in Ephesians, and perhaps all of Scripture.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Blessings from the Son”

Read Ephesians 1:7-10

Blessings from the Son

- Redemption 1.7-8

- Revelation 1.9

- Reunification 1.9-10

Three Major Obstacles to Overcome

- Spiritual death needs to be reversed

- Human alienation needs to be removed

- Evil spiritual powers need to be suppressed

John Stott

“If we would understand the apostle’s perspective, we would also share his praise.”

Discuss

- 1) In Ephesians 1, Paul gushes about all the blessings that Christians enjoy in Christ. He goes on and on for 12 verses. Do you spend much time thinking about those blessings? If so, what difference has that made in your life? If not, why do you think that is?

- 2) Pastor Don mentioned that his parents had a hard time thinking about the blood of Christ being necessary for our redemption. Is there any doctrine in Christianity that you have had a hard time with—either now or in the past?

- 3) Paul's perspective in Ephesians 1:9-10 is that everything is ultimately going to be united under Christ. In other words, Christ is going to rule over everyone and everything in a visible way. How should this perspective change the way we think and make decisions in our lives?

- 4) Read Colossians 1:15-17. How does that passage shed light on what Paul is talking about in Ephesians 1:7-10?

- 5) If it is true that the greatest blessings in the world are the ones that Jesus has accomplished for us to reconcile us to God, how should that motivate us to share the gospel with people in our sphere of influence? Is there anyone you can think of that you interact with on a daily basis who needs to hear that Jesus is the only way to be redeemed and experience the joy of the forgiveness of sins?