

Forgiving Grace

May 13, 2012

Eph 1:7-9 the purpose of redeeming grace is to bring mankind into relationship with God.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

I. Review:

Redemption

The text (Eph 1:7-8) Suggests three questions and answers about redemption!

1. What is redemption?
The forgiveness of our trespasses.
2. How are we redeemed?
Through His blood!
3. Why were we redeemed?
Because God our Father is rich in grace.
"according to the riches of His grace"

Forgiveness of trespasses

"Trespasses"

This is the Greek term for sin, (paraptōma), literally "to fall to one side." It is related to the OT words for sin which meant a deviation from a standard.

The term "reed" was a construction term used metaphorically of God's character. God is the only standard by which all humans are crooked and perverted (cf. Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-23; 11:32; Gal. 3:22).

"Forgiveness"

The word forgive means literally "sending away," "to carry away." This reminds us of the ritual on the Jewish Day of Atonement when the high priest sent the scapegoat into the wilderness (Lev. 16).

To forgive means to give up the right to punish someone for a transgression.

Forgiveness goes hand in hand with redemption. We cannot have one without the other.

God's forgiveness is unqualified and unchanging; He declares what He has done with our sins:

He has wiped them out.

Isa 43:25 I am the one who wipes out your transgressions ... and I will not remember your sins.

Isa 44:22 "I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud and your sins like a heavy mist.

He has removed them far away.

Psa 103:11-12 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

He has cast them behind His back

Isa 38:17 "It is You who has kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

He has cast them into the depths of the sea

Mic 7:19 You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

In the New Covenant He remembers them no more

Heb 8:12 "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

God's forgiveness is free, full and final. When he forgives, he forgets!

Riches of grace

The price of our redemption shows the value God places on us (1 Pe 1:18-19).

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Paul refers to God's riches 6 times in Ephesians:

Eph 1:7 the riches of grace

Eph 1:19 the riches of His inheritance

Eph 2:4 the riches of mercy

Eph 2:7 the riches of kindness

Eph 3:8 the unfathomable riches of Christ

Eph 3:16 the riches of His glory

Lavished Which (the riches of His grace) He lavished upon us.

Definitions of "lavished":

"to be over and above, over a certain number or measure, to abound, exceed,"

"an exceeding measure, something above the ordinary."

to exceed a fixed number or measure;

to be over and above a certain number or measure:

to exist or be at hand in abundance:

to abound, overflow,

Jn 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

Ro 5:15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

II. God has made known to us the mystery of His will

Redemption reveals the eternal purpose and will of God!

God has made known His will.

God exercised His plan of redemption through wisdom and insight.

Revelation comes according to His kind intention.

III. Study on the effects of sin

Gen 3:8 Sin makes us hide from God

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Gen 3:22-24 Adam and Eve are expelled from the garden, the walk of God is interrupted

Gen 4:16 Cain's punishment was to be away from the presence of the Lord
Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Gen 17:1-2 the blessing of the Abrahamic covenant is walking before God
Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly."

Ex 33:11 Moses' relationship with God is face-to-face
Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.

Ex 33:13-15 Moses refused to go into the promised land without God's presence.
Now therefore, I pray Thee, if I have found favor in Thy sight, let me know Thy ways, that I may know Thee, so that I may find favor in Thy sight. Consider too, that this nation is Thy people." And He said, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If Thy presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.

Lev 26:11-13 God redeemed Israel from Egypt so that He would dwell among them
'Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you should not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

David's relationship with God:

2 Sa 21:1 in the midst of problems he seeks the presence of the Lord.
21:1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the Lord.

David's repentance from murder and adultery

Ps 51:10-11 don't take me away from your presence
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Ps 139:7-8 he was always aware of God's presence
Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there.

Ps 56:13 he walked with God
For Thou hast delivered my soul from death, indeed my feet from stumbling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

2 Th 1:9 being away from God's presence is the penalty of eternal destruction
And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Jude 24 God wants us to stand blameless in his presence
Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

In the book of revelation the walk of God is continued.
Rev 21:23-25 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. And the nations shall walk by its light, and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it. And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed;