

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 10, 2018

The Revelation of Redemption
Ephesians 1:7-10

I. The redemption and forgiveness of salvation (1:7-8)

A. The cost

7 In him we have redemption through his blood,

- “In him”
 - Reference to the “Beloved” of verse 6
- “We have redemption”
 - Definition of redemption
 - Two main ideas:
 - Payment for a slave
 - Release of a slave
 - “Because of the prevalence of slavery in the Roman world (including Ephesus and western Asia Minor), the concept of the payment of a price to secure freedom for a slave was common.”¹
 - Example of redemption in the Exodus
 - Exodus 6:6 “Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.’”
- “Through his blood”
 - Price paid for our redemption
 - Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.”
 - “Christ’s blood shed in death liberates from the divine wrath (Rom 5:9), from bondage to sin and guilt (Rom 6:6-7, 14, 20, 22; Rev 1:5), from the impossible burden of law-keeping (Rom 7:4-6; Gal 3:10, 13), and from the tyranny of death (Rom 8:2). Ransom and redemption represent God’s merciful answer to the many forms of bondage that enslave men and women.”²

¹ Clinton E. Arnold, Ephesians, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 85.

² Bruce Demarest, “The Cross and Salvation,” 178.

B. The cancellation

the forgiveness of our trespasses,

- Relationship between redemption and forgiveness
 - Redemption in the cross of Christ brought the result of forgiveness
- Colossians 2:13-14 “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

C. The charity

according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us,

- “This grace is sufficiently abundant to cover the sins of all and is adequate for the worst of sinners.”³
- Romans 5:20 “Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,”

II. The revelation and fulfillment of salvation (1:9-10)

A. The mystery

in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose,

- What is this “mystery” to which Paul is referring?
 - What has God made known in His wisdom and insight?
 - Verse 9 states that the mystery is the mystery of His will and in accord with His purpose
- The Old Testament helps us to answer this question of the “mystery” of God’s will
 - Old Testament is filled with descriptions of God’s character
 - He is holy, righteous, just, merciful, etc.
 - Old Testament is also filled with promises of God
 - Blessings for obedience, Curses for disobedience
 - A Kingdom that will rule over all the earth
 - A King that will rule in justice in righteousness
 - Salvation and deliverance for His people
 - Old Testament also has its fair share of examples of the sinfulness of mankind

³ Clinton E. Arnold, Ephesians, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 86.

- Gradual decline in the leadership (prophets, priests, and kings)
 - Even post-exile still presents a confusing unfulfilled situation
- Thus, the Old Testament presents a tension in the character of God and the people of God
 - How will a righteous God save a sinful people?
 - Will a holy God truly come and dwell with His unholy people and reign upon the earth?
 - How is God going to progress His plan and uphold His character and promises?
- Transition: How did God make this mystery known?

B. The Man

which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time,

- God revealed the mystery of His will in Jesus Christ
 - Through Jesus, God upholds His character as righteous and holy
 - Through Jesus, God upholds His mercy and grace upon mankind
 - Through Jesus, God redeems His people from slavery to sin
 - Through Jesus, God cancels the record of sin that stood against His people
 - Jesus brings peace between God and man
- Christ's coming was in accord with God's plan and timing
 - Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."
- Christ's coming also established the foothold for God's plan to move forward
 - Through Jesus, mankind can be in relationship with God
 - Through Jesus, God can come and dwell with man
 - Through Jesus, God can establish His Kingdom on earth and reign supreme
- The work of Jesus on the cross not only provided our redemption and forgiveness...
 - The work of Jesus on the cross changed the entire course of human history so that God's will would prevail

C. The merge

to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

- God's will is bringing everything under the Lordship of Jesus Christ
- The Scriptures teach that this will take place in the future Messianic kingdom of Jesus Christ
 - This kingdom had been promised repeatedly in the Old Testament
 - This kingdom had been discussed by Jesus in His time on earth
 - This kingdom was anticipated in the early church
- Jesus will return to earth and set up His Kingdom
 - He will unify all things under Himself

- Those who rebel will die
- Those who have believed in Him will experience His righteous ruling
- Philippians 2:9-11 “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- Jesus will ultimately deal with the heavenly entities as well
 - Satan and his demonic forces will be thrown into the Lake of Fire along with those who chose not to believe in Jesus, God’s Messiah
- This glorious day would not come if it had not been for Christ’s work on the cross
 - Colossians 1:19-20 “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”