

Refuge City Church — August 20, 2023
“Redeemed for His glory” (Ephesians 1:7-14)

Introduction

- **Last time:** In the opening verses of Ephesians 1, we read that God has done so much for us.
 - He has blessed us, chosen us, and predestined us.
 - He has set us apart as ‘saints’, and given us every spiritual blessing.
 - All of this determined before the foundation of the world was laid.
- **Today:** We continue to gain more understanding as to how much God loves us by explaining further what He has done for us.

“His plan of redemption” [Verses 7-12]

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”

- None of which is possible without the price paid for our life through the sacrifice of Jesus.
 - **[vs. 7]** “In him we have *redemption* through his blood, the *forgiveness* of our trespasses, according to the riches of his *grace*,”
 - **Romans 5:9**, “...we have now been justified by his blood”
 - **Revelation 1:5**, “...freed us from our sins by his blood”
 - **Hebrews 9:12**, “[Jesus] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.”
 - Redemption = Salvation [freedom, liberation, emancipation]
 - Who we are *in* Christ is far superior to who we are *without* Him.
 - **Lady Liberty’s Perspective** [*The New Colossus*, by Emma Lazarus, 1883]
- “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”
- Give me your tired.
 - **Matthew 11:28**, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
 - Your poor.
 - **Matthew 5:3**, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
 - Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
 - **John 8:32**, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
 - The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

- **Revelation 3:17**, “For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.”
- Send these, the homeless. [integral part to the salvation story]
 - **Luke 14:13-14**, “...invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you.”
- Tempest-tost to me.
 - **Ephesians 4:14**, “so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”
- I lift my lamp beside the golden door!
 - **Revelation 3:20**, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”
- *Outside of Christ*: we are tired, poor, imprisoned by sin, wretched, homeless, confused, and without hope in perpetual darkness.
- *In Jesus*: you can find rest and peace as one blessed by God who desires to give you the keys to the kingdom. He has set you free from being the lost, wretched, and broken, individual you once were. He has placed you on the solid ground of His truth and extends the invitation to dwell with you forever as a member of His family!
- All for the *forgiveness* of our sins, by the shed blood of Jesus on the cross.
 - **Matthew 26:28**, “for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
- **[vs. 8-10]** “which he *lavished* upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the *mystery* of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to *unite* all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”
 - What did He give us?? Every spiritual blessing.
 - He didn’t just give a bit here and a bit there. He *lavished* us with His blessings. [overly abundant; overflowing; exceeding expectations]
 - What’s it all for?
 - **Romans 16:25-26**, “Now to him who is able to *strengthen* you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the *obedience* of faith.”
- It’s no longer a mystery!
 - Imagine never hearing of the name of Jesus, and this prophet shows up and says this...
 - “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord...” [Isaiah 11:1-3a]
 - And throughout time, events, and multiple prophets sent by God, message upon message came to the people of Israel in this way.

- Then this guy shows up claiming to be the promised Messiah, the son of Joseph, whose direct line can be traced back to King David, the son of Jesse.
 - **Mark 1:15**, “The *time is fulfilled*, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”
 - **Matthew 13:11-12**, [the disciples ask why Jesus speaks in parables] “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”
- If you are in Christ, the mystery has been revealed! There is no more guessing, no more waiting on this promised Messiah.
- Those outside of Christ still wander & wonder. They don’t know, and won’t know the full truth, until God chooses to reveal it to them in His way.
- **[vs. 10-11]** “as a plan for the fullness of time, to *unite* all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an *inheritance*, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,”
- Jesus is coming again! He will establish His rule & reign on earth. All things will be united under His lordship! [we get to experience it as members of the household of God.]
 - **John 16:33**, “...In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” [*tetelestai* = “it is finished”; done; completed; accomplished; fulfilled; debt paid]
 - **Revelation 21:6-7**, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”
- *What’s it all for?* Salvation, Unity, and His Glory!

“Authentically sealed” [Verses 13-14]

“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

- “When you heard the word of truth”. [**John 20:29**, “blessed are those who have not seen and believed.”]
- **Romans 10:14, 17**, “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?... *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*”
- The divine, pre-determined redemptive plan of God involves our participation.
 - *What is our participation?* Receive, Believe, and live for His glory!
 - The beauty of a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father.
- The full extent of that salvation will not be realized until we join Him in glory.
- Until then, we are sealed [secure, genuine, authenticated ownership] for glory by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
 - **John 3:33-34**, “Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true [a king’s signet ring; authentication]. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.”

- What a gift to receive, until the time comes when we will see and experience the fullness of God and Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

- We spent two weeks unpacking these 14 verses, because the importance of what they say!
 - **Ephesians 1:3-14**, “Blessed be the *God and Father* of our *Lord Jesus Christ*, who has blessed us *in Christ* with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as *he* chose us *in him* before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before *him*. In love *he* predestined us for adoption to *himself* as sons through *Jesus Christ*, according to the purpose of *his* will, to the praise of *his* glorious grace, with which *he* has blessed us in the *Beloved*. In *him* we have redemption through *his* blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of *his* grace, which *he* lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of *his* will, according to *his* purpose, which *he* set forth *in Christ* as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in *him*, things in heaven and things on earth. In *him* we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of *him* who works all things according to the counsel of *his* will, so that we who were the first to hope *in Christ* might be to the praise of *his* glory. In *him* you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in *him*, were sealed with the promised *Holy Spirit*, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of *his* glory.”
- **QUOTE:** “The glory of God is the revelation of God, and the glory of his grace is his self-disclosure as a gracious God. To live to the praise of the glory of his grace is both to worship him ourselves by our words and deeds as the gracious God he is, and to cause others to see and to praise him too.” [John Stott]