

The Explanation of Redemption

Introduction

- A. One of the most important truths in the Bible has to do with the believer's relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. Before the new birth our relationship was with Adam and the effect was sin, condemnation, and death (Rom. 5:12-19). This was broken, however, in salvation, and we were brought into a relationship of spiritual life through and in the Lord Jesus. (John 10:28)
- C. One explanation of this truth is found in the book of Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
Ephesians 1:3

- I. In Jesus Christ We Have Redemption, Ephesians 1:7.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Comments: Five great truths are taught in this verse.

1. There is redemption! This important word in the Bible designates the provision God has made for all who will believe. It means to "purchase to set free." This is a picture of salvation.
2. This redemption is "through his blood" which explains how salvation was obtained. The Lord Jesus took our place of condemnation and death. By bearing our judgment on the cross we now can, by receiving Him as Lord and Savior, be set free from sin and death.
3. The next truth has to do with "the forgiveness of sins." This is an explanation of one facet of redemption and salvation. Believers are forgiven the guilt of their sin (Col. 2:13). We are no longer under condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
4. The next truth reminds us that salvation is not obtained by our works. The redemption in Christ is "according to the riches of his grace." "Grace" means the favor or provision of God that cannot be obtained by merit. Salvation is a gift (Rom. 6:23).
5. The words "in whom" remind us that every provision of redemption and every benefit of salvation is found in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His sacrificial death in our place and relationship of salvation which became ours through the new birth, the believer has been blessed with "all spiritual blessings."

II. In Jesus Christ We Have an Inheritance/ Ephesians 1:11.

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, that we should be to the praise of his glory

Comment: The word "inheritance" in this passage has the meaning of "a portion given by choice." The thought refers to all the benefits that have been given to believers, through divine grace, that we might be and live for the glory of God (V 12). We must learn to use these gifts to honor God.

III. In Jesus Christ We Have a Divine Seal, Ephesians 1:13.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

Comment: Because of the work of the Lord Jesus and the salvation we have in Him, the believer has received in the Holy Spirit a divine "seal" which is not only our protection but our indication of genuineness. From the moment of the new birth the believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit Who abides in us to maintain the living relationship we have with the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. In Jesus Christ We Have Been Placed into the Church, Ephesians 2:21,22.

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Comment: Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. All who believe upon Him as Lord and Savior become a member of that universal Church. In these verses we are reminded that the Church is a "holy temple" and a "habitation of God." What a privilege to have such a relationship and privilege. While this is true for each individual Christian the picture of the will of God is more clearly seen when we look at all believers of every age.

V. In Jesus Christ We Have Access into God's Presence, Ephesians 3:12.

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Comment: When we think of the infinite holiness of God, and our own sinfulness, this truth comes to us with an amazing jolt! That people such as ourselves being able to come into the divine presence with boldness and confidence – is almost too much to believe. It is true, however, because of the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus. The privilege of worship, prayer, and giving of thanks is something we must have high on the list of our daily priorities.

Conclusion: All these and much more – are ours in Jesus Christ.

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