



TITLE:

Ephesians 1:7-8 – We Have Redemption and Forgiveness

INTRODUCTION:

- Paul wrote the epistle to the church at Ephesus during his first imprisonment in Rome.
- One of his goals in writing the epistle is to safeguard the believers from the errors present in the Colossian church.
- The theme: Because of our position in Christ in heavenly places, we have to walk with Christ on earth.
- Ephesians 1:4-6 is part of the first section of the Doctrinal Content of the epistle.
- This section contains “all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”

REVIEW: BELIEVER’S POSITION IN CHRIST:

1. God hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ (1:3).
2. Before the foundation of the world, God hath chosen us that we should be holy and without blame before Him (1:4).
3. God hath predestinated the us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ (1:5).
4. God hath made us accepted in the beloved (1:6).

WE HAVE REDEMPTION AND FORGIVENESS (1:7-8)

- In whom WE HAVE - our position
 - The pronoun “whom” refers to the beloved, to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Having redemption is our position only because of Jesus Christ.
 - The pronoun “we” refers to the saints who are at Ephesus, and the faithful in Christ Jesus (1:1).
 - They are the ones who heard the word of truth, trusted, and believed in Christ (1:13).
 - The word “we have” is in the present tense declaring that we currently have redemption and forgiveness.
- Redemption through His blood
 - The word “redemption” (ἀπολύτρωσιν - apolytrōsin) means bought and released, describing the act of buying a slave from the market to give him freedom.
 - Ephesians 2:1-3 describes the state of bondage we were in before our redemption.
 - We were dead in trespasses and sins.
 - We walked according to the course of this world.
 - We walked according to Satan.
 - We lived in the lusts of our flesh.
 - We were children of disobedience and wrath.
 - This basis of redemption is through Christ’s blood.
 - Paul said that Jesus Christ had purchased the Ephesian church believers with His own blood (Acts 20:28).
 - Salvation is free to anyone but it is not cheap.
 - We are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
 - Our position: We currently have redemption.
- Forgiveness of sins
 - Paul explains the nature of redemption by including the forgiveness of sins.
 - The word “forgiveness” (ἄφεσιν - aphesin) means remission, deliverance, or liberty.
 - It has the idea of letting the offender go as if they had not committed the crime.
 - It has the idea of remission of the penalty that the offender deserves.
 - Sin is the transgression of the law.
 - 1 John 3:4 - Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
 - James 2:10 - For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

- The just and holy God requires payment and penalty from those who commit sins against Himself.
 - Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul that sinneth, it shall die.
 - Romans 6:23 - The wages of sin is death.
 - Revelation 20:14 - And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- Our position: We currently have forgiveness of sins.
- Having redemption and forgiveness is according to the riches of God's grace.
 - Grace (χάριτος - charitos) is the kindness that God bestows upon us which we don't deserve.
 - We don't deserve the redemption. We don't deserve the forgiveness of sins. We deserve hell.
 - But God is a gracious God and His grace is rich. His grace is abundant, full, and plentiful.
 - Grace is mentioned 12 times in the Ephesians.
 - See Ephesians 2:1-7.
 - In the ages to come (eternity future), God will show, demonstrate, or exhibit the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
 - According to Isaiah 66:22-24, we would be able to see the lake of fire from new heaven and new earth.
 - Each time we observe the carcasses of men in the lake of fire, we will recognize that we should rightfully be among them.
 - Each time, we perceive ourselves as redeemed and forgiven of sins, we will continually behold the exceeding riches of God's grace toward us for all eternity.
- The grace that is rich, abundant, and plentiful has been abounded toward in all wisdom and prudence.
 - The verb "hath abounded" is in active aorist tense which means to furnish one richly so that he has an abundance.
 - God hath abounded His grace toward us in all wisdom and prudence (understanding).
 - It is to understand the nature of His grace.
 - It is to understand our position in Jesus Christ.
 - It is to understand His plan that He purposed in Himself - the plan that He operates now and for all eternity. This is the mystery of His will (1:9-11).
 - Ephesians 1:8 connects 1:3-7 to 1:9-11.

CHALLENGE:

Ephesians 4:1-3 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Is your current walk worthy (appropriately) of the vocation (calling) wherewith you are called?
- Do you walk with ALL lowliness (humility) and meekness (gentleness)?
- Do you walk with longsuffering (patience or forbearance)?
- Do you forbear (hold up) one another in love?
- Do endeavor (to make effort or earnest) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace?