

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

"Redemption -- Hallelujah!"
Ephesians 1:7

Introduction

1. Ephesians is the book which tells the story of what a believer has "in Christ." Any sort of true understanding of this glorious infinite truth can only result in praise. He has done more for us than tongue or pen can ever tell. No wonder Paul exclaimed the words of Ephesians 1:3.

2. Being saved, a person is called unto holiness and blameless living (v. 4). He is also predestined unto the adoption of children which means being declared an adult son with all of the accompanying responsibilities (v. 5). These precious blessings are viewed unto the praise of the glory of His grace.

3. Crucial to the blessings received is the fact they are the believers by virtue of his position "in the Beloved One" (v. 5). Our Lord is called by this name twice during His earthly sojourn: the baptism (Matt. 3:17) and the transfiguration (Matt. 17:5). Why our Lord is given this title is indicated (John 10:17). As believers, we have been brought into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Col. 1:13 alternate reading).

4. Now, the next listed blessing in this chapter for believers is redemption. This doctrine touches upon the work of the Beloved One. Redemption has three blessed facets to it: a. It means to purchase or buy in the market. The Greek word so rendered is found in 1 Cor. 6:20; 2 Pet. 2:1; Rev. 5:9; 4:3, 4. b. It means to buy out of the market and is henceforth no longer for sale. It is so used in Gal. 3:13; 4:5. c. It means to liberate on the receipt of a ransom. The Greek term is used here and elsewhere (Luke 21:24, 28; Rom. 3:24; 8:23; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:14; 4:30). It is quite obvious that redemption is deliverance out of a situation from which no man is capable to extricate himself.

5. Here are five interrogatives concerning the doctrine of redemption with their answers from the text:

1. THROUGH WHOM?

This is a take off from the term "Beloved One" (v. 6). It is therefore through Christ that the redemption is accomplished. There is not a stitch of personal effort involved. The totality of it lies in His bosom.

Self-redemption is out of the question. The whole modernist movement is dealt a final blow here. But who is the Beloved One? Here are two important facts about Him: a. He is the God-Man (John 1:1, 14). b. He is the absolutely sinless one (Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22). John's gospel is filled with argumentation to enforce the view that only God can be one's Savior. Christ is that person of the Godhead.

2. ENJOYED WHEN?

The present tense verb "have" undergirds the concept of present possession of redemption. The deliverance of the soul from guilt before God is NOW. There is a future redemption of the body (Rom. 8:23), but this must never be confused with the redemption of the soul here. A similar reconstruction is given in Romans 5:1. Redemption is not an end-of-the-line experience, but a right-now enjoyment.

3. ACCOMPLISHED HOW?

"Blood" is a nasty term for many, but not for those who know their Bibles. It is rather the very essence of Christian thought. The possessive pronoun used here deliberately marks out the blood as that of the Son of God. It is "His." This brings into clear focus many blessed passages of the Word (Lev. 17:11; Matt. 20:28; Heb. 9:22; John 19:30). Peter never forgot this truth (1 Pet. 1:19) and heaven will be filled with its praise (Rev. 5:9).

4. INCLUDES WHAT?

The phrase "forgiveness of sins" is grammatically in apposition to the preceding. Thus, to have redemption has as its bottom line forgiveness. The plural word "sins" signifies the accumulation of sinful acts which are chargeable to us. God has sent them all away (basic meaning in Greek for forgiveness) as the Psalmist

declares (103:11, 12). "Sins" is a word which means falling by the way, an offense, or a trespass. This is all done away with by Christ's work. It is an eternal accomplishment. This sort of forgiveness is to be sharply distinguished from the forgiveness granted a believer who has sinned (1 John 1:9). No child of God should ever think that any charge is held against him respecting eternal salvation.

5. MEASURED WHY?

What God does, He does "according to the riches of His grace." This is the bounty by which He has made redemption possible. There is no grudging in His giving. To speak of God's riches of grace is to affirm that there is an inexhaustible overflowing of unmerited love in Himself. It is all freely available through Christ. God is infinitely liberal--with grace! His resources are wholly infinite. No saved person should ever underestimate the grace of God in his own life. Saved by grace alone This is all my plea Jesus died for all mankind Yes, Jesus died for me.

Conclusion Doctrine is teaching. It is teaching which strengthens the child of God. In these opening verses of Ephesians, Paul has provided strong meat for the hungry believer. Work your way through inexhaustible blessings such as election, predestination, adoption, and now redemption. There is but one word which we all ought to say: hallelujah. Not in a perfunctory manner, but from the heart. Let us truly worship and adore Him for what He has done in our behalf. Amen.