

**October 15, 2017**

**(Foreign to Familiar Series: Ephesians 1-3)**

**“The Redemption of the Son”, Ephesians 1:7-10**

Did you ever wonder if there was enough forgiveness or grace or mercy for the type or number of your sins? Have you ever wondered if God will stop forgiving when you continue in your sin? Ephesians 1:7-10, located in the middle of a long sentence giving thanks for spiritual blessings in Christ, addresses these questions.

### **I. What Christ did for us: Christ Redeemed Us! (Ephesians 1:7)**

- The New Testament Greek meaning of “redeemed” is to secure the release of someone by paying a ransom. Someone is released from a situation because of the payment of a price.
- Redemption in the Old Testament world was a big deal, especially when first born sons automatically belonged to God and had to be bought back to the family with the sacrifice of a lamb. Ultimately, God was going to give His first born Son in exchange for our lives.
- Jesus has released us from slavery to sin and God’s judgment (Col.1:13-14) by paying with His human blood (Eph.1:7), handing over His life for ours and bearing all the wrath of God for our sins.

### **II. Benefits of Redemption (Ephesians 1:7-10)**

#### **• There is enough Grace for ALL our sin.**

Through Christ’s redemption we have “the forgiveness of sins, in accordance [proportion] with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us.” (Eph.1:8) The riches of His grace are infinite: overflowing, overwhelming, pouring down all around us. As the accuser, Satan, fights to keep us in slavery to our sins (Rev.12), Jesus offers freedom...from our miserable choices, our secret addictions, pride, lies, sexual sins, self condemnation, etc.

No matter what the size of the sin, its continuance, or its lasting consequences, Jesus offers forgiveness because His death is enough. It is finished. Because He was a man, with moral goodness and authority, Christ could die in our place; because He was God, He could die in everyone’s place with enough grace for all our sins.

#### **• All Creation will discover its purpose in Christ’s redemption. (Ephesians 1:8-10)**

God did not just forgive us, but He gave us insight and understanding as well (Eph.1:8). The “mystery of His will” was hidden and is now revealed: Christ has come, died and rose again, and sent us His Holy Spirit. We can now understand what God intentioned in Christ: that all of Creation will find its purpose [how it fits together] in Christ’s redemption. Christ is everything! Historically, all Scripture points to Christ; now we can be redeemed from our brokenness (Rom.8) by Christ’s death for our sins; and “when the times reach fulfillment” (Eph.1:10) everything in heaven and earth will find headship and purpose in Christ.

**Prayer:** May we celebrate our purpose in Christ’s redemption, thanking God for our forgiveness/healing from slavery to sin, and move forward to live for Him. As He shows us more of what Jesus has done for us personally and for Creation, may we turn to Him with open, humble hearts and be transformed.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Is it really true that “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1) Do you experience this? Is God’s grace sufficient for your sins?
2. If Jesus’ redemption releases us and pays for our sins, what does He expect of us?
3. Could you explain to a seeker how Jesus is both fully God and fully human, and why that is necessary for Him to be able to redeem all of us who accept Him as our Savior?

4. Why must God's grace be infinite for Jesus to be everything?
5. Is everything now in your life and in Creation in a meaningful relationship under the headship of Christ? (Eph.1:10)