

Contra Mundum

The Work of Christ

Ephesians 1:7-10

January 25, 2015

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses... **-Ephesians 1:7**

I. FREE AT LAST, FREE AT LAST!

- The great spiritual blessing in the heavenly places: Redemption through the blood of Jesus (Isa. 53:5-6; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Peter 1:1-2).
- Not by works, but by grace; grace that we receive not randomly, but in God's wisdom and insight (vs. 8; Eph. 2:8-9).

II. ONCE HIDDEN, NOW REVEALED

- The mystery of God's will was once veiled, but now, through the apostles, he has made it known (1 Cor. 2:6-8; Eph. 3:9; 1 Peter 1:10-12).
- Now, in the fullness of time, we understand the mystery—a plan of redemption for Jews and Gentiles alike (vs. 10; Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 3:4-6).
- God's eternal plan—to bring about a cosmic reconciliation. All things will one day be united and in submission to Jesus the Son of God (Rom. 8:18-25; 14:11; Col. 1:15-23).

MAIN POINT: In Christ, by God's grace, and through Jesus' blood, you have the hope of reconciliation with God. It has been God's purpose all along.

KNOW: Grace and forgiveness have been lavished upon us. They have not been given begrudgingly, but as part of a revelatory plan to unite all things to God.

DO: Be reconciled to God.

Suggested Reading:

The Heart of the Gospel, by Robert Coleman
18 Words, by J.I. Packer

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Ephesians 1:7-10

1. We spoke a bit Sunday about what "redemption" means, or what it meant to the people of Paul's day. Even though we do not have first hand experience with slavery in America today, from what you know, how is it a good picture of what it means to come to salvation in Christ?
2. How do we explain the necessity of Jesus' blood for redemption to people who do not know Christ? Read Hebrews 9:22. Why does the writer of Hebrews say this?
3. What are the riches of God's grace? Name a few, then pause for a moment and have someone lead in a prayer of thanksgiving for all that we have received in Christ.
4. We said that "mystery" to Paul meant not something we do not understand, but something that we do now understand that once was hidden. Does that mean there are no longer any mysteries about God or his ways/plans? Read Deut. 29:29. What does it mean to us?
5. Paul tells us in verse 10 that God will ultimately unite everything in Christ. Does he mean that eventually everyone will be saved, including Satan, and will submit to God? Why or why not?
6. How does knowing the mystery of God's will affect you? What, if anything, has changed for you?