

Harmony of His Redemption

Thankful to God that we now continue where we were in our studies. There is so much that has been going on, like Covid-19 which has attacked our assembly of the Church. Now there are many churches who have had to closed down their worship. There have been many churches that still have a nice assembly in the worship of God. We have a small assembly and I hope that more of you slowly come back to worship with us. And I am thankful that you are going to continue in our study of Ephesians on the internet or any of the other ways to continue to worship with us.

We closed in our last study on a look at the study of Grace. Now let's look at an advancement of His grace. First, in Ephesians 1:6 the glory of His grace in verse 6 *To the Praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.* Now we continue in Ephesians 1:7 with the riches of His grace, advancement of the exceeding riches of His grace. Here is a wonderful principal about our Lord's grace: once His grace starts pursuing you, you go from grace to the riches of His grace, and you keep on staying in His love. People we want to grow in His love and not lose our love as the second Ephesians (as mentioned Revelations chapter 2) lost their love for Christ. This is why once you start living under His grace, He makes you richer and richer in grace. No matter what happens in your life, you continue living under more of His grace.

But be so warned this is what happened in the second Ephesians in Revelation 2:1-7. In the warfare that now increases our conflict with an attack that has close many aspects of our Spiritual growth. We must be so careful of our Spiritual love for one-another. Just think of the many attacks on our humble assembly. Bryan and Julie Cooper in their families and having to be in traveling almost by the week. Then be in prayer about our outreach in the electronics. Then some are coming under Covid-19—they need our prayers. Then the fact that many are not impelled to attend our

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assembly, which has many associate problems as in our singing with one another. So people, let us be very careful about one another in our assembly and be more and more like the believers in Thessalonica who were careful with their love for one another, work of faith among one another.

But grace from God cannot function without glorifying Jesus Christ Himself. So, in verses from 7 through 12 we now come to the riches of His Grace ending in the Glory of Jesus Christ. I think one of the most difficult things to communicate is realizing the 'true riches' of Christ controlling in our lives. To reach the point where we actually experience the control of our lives is by God's riches, where we understand what God's glory really is in us.

Now the question for us is how do we begin realizing the praise of His glory? This begins in Ephesians 1:7: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

The great splendor by God is that the justice and the righteousness of God be harmonized with His love. Stop here and just think about all that is going on in this harmony by God for you. When there is harmony of the justice and righteousness with His love there is the praise of His Glory. Therefore verses 7-12 now shows us the work of the Son to make this harmony of His Justice, Righteousness and His love. One of the most important works of Jesus Christ is this harmony. So many people do not even begin to understand that the love of God must not compromise the holiness of God. If the only thing you grasp out of Ephesians 1:7-12 or in fact in the book of Ephesians is that the love of God must not compromise the holiness of God.

This is for you and me! And Jesus Christ does this for us. This is what is accomplished by the work of the Son, to fulfill the plan of the Father.

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Slow down now and learn from verse 7 the mystery of the work of Jesus Christ in harmonizing God's love with God's holiness. *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.* Friends, I do not want you to be confused or lost by the beautiful preposition *in Him* which opens verse 7. In God's word of the Greek, the relative pronoun must have an antecedent, meaning preceding something important. Slow down and look at the antecedence here is Jesus Christ, is described in verse 6 *in the beloved*, so it would like this: *He* (God the Father) *freely bestowed on us in the beloved*, *in Him* referring to the Lord Jesus Christ. *In Him we have in Him, or in the Lord Jesus Christ.* Now look what Jesus is doing. *In Him we have*—this is the **present active indicative** of the word *to have or to have and hold*. This is very important to us, the **present active indicative** means this goes on through the rest of your eternity, unchanged! We will always hold *redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins*. To show you how important this is, the unbeliever cannot be pursued by grace beyond salvation. So here now by our belonging to *we can keep on having the redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins*...people, this is so wonderful. By our having eternal 'redemption' God can now continue to be pursued by us with more grace. Please be sure you now grasp that the reason God can continue to pursue us by grace after salvation, is because now His Righteousness and Justice are not compromised by His love in us.

In Him we have or In Him we keep on having two vital blessings:

- 1) redemption
- 2) the forgiveness of sins.

The first to be mentioned in our possessing is the **accusative singular** of *apolutrosis* . (the **accusative** is the most common function). The word being spoken of here, is the *redemption* which means 'to let go free for a ransom.' In the Complete WordStudy Dictionary of the New Testament,

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Redemption-is the recalling of captives (sinners) from captivity (that is the captivity of sin) through or buy the payment of a ransom for them, that is by Christ's death.' Sin is presented as slavery and sinners as slaves." Note from John 8:34 Jesus answered them, 'Truly truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.' And know the eternity principle from John 8:36. If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.'

Redemption in the Greek word means to redeem, to liberate, so here this word means DELIVERANCE on the basis of paying a ransom. It means to buy a slave or captive, to purchase the freedom of slaves.

We have seen that Ephesians is not written to unbelievers but primarily to those who are saved by grace through faith.

But it is so important to us, those who are redeemed, to understand what it means to us now that we are saved.

It will be addressed a few other times in Eph. so let's be sure that we grasp the doctrine of Redemption.

Redemption