

“HE PAID A DEBT HE DID NOT OWE”

Ephesians 1:7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God did a wonderful thing for Noah and his family, because Noah followed after God, ***Genesis 6:9ff.***
 - 1. God spared Noah and his family.
 - 2. Noah did his best to thank God for that: “Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” ***Genesis 8:20.***
- B. God did a wonderful thing for us when He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins:
 - 1. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” ***John 3:16.***
 - 2. He died for our sins. “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that ***Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 1 Corinthians 15:3***
- C. Our text for tonight is Ephesians 1:7 -- “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
- D. Tonight we will discuss the great sacrifice of Jesus as described in Ephesians 1:7.

I. “IN WHOM . . .”

- A. Who is this verse talking about?
 - 1. Well, in whom do we have redemption? “Being justified freely by his grace ***through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.***” ***Romans 3:24.***
 - 2. So, redemption is found IN Christ Jesus.
 - 3. “In Whom” and “In Him,” etc., found at least *169 times in the NT.*
- B. Do we have redemption in anyone else?
 - 1. Can we find redemption through our families, preachers, etc.?
 - 2. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. ***Acts 4:12.***
- C. “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” ***John 14:6.***
- D. Song: “He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay . . .” #.

II. “WE HAVE REDEMPTION . . .”

- A. Defined as “deliverance by payment.”
 - 1. Delivered from what?
 - 2. Delivered by what payment?

- B. He paid the debt that He didn't owe.
 1. "For He made Him *who knew no sin* to be *sin for us*, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." **2 Corinthians 5:21.**
 2. It was OUR debt. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." **Romans 6:23.**
- C. Song: "Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it . . ." #514.
- D. We needed a PERFECT sacrifice to secure this redemption:
 1. "Who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, *for this He did once for all* when He offered up Himself. **Hebrews 7:27**
 2. "So Christ was *offered once* to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. **Hebrews 9:28.**
 3. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. **Hebrews 10:4.**
- E. Redemption does not come without a price, which leads us to our next point:

III. "THROUGH HIS BLOOD . . ."

- A. "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins." **Hebrews 10:4.**
- B. Christians have redemption from their debt THROUGH CHRIST'S BLOOD.
 1. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. **Acts 20:28.**
 2. "You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." **1 Peter 1:18-19.**
 2. Christians are bought with a price and that price was the "Debt that He paid at Calvary" – **1 Corinthians 6:20.**
- C. "***What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus***" #
- D. We MUST contact the blood of Christ to receive forgiveness. How do we do that?
 1. "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." **Acts 22:16.**
 2. "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood," **Rev 1:5.**
- E. "...and without shedding of blood there is no remission." **Hebrews 9:22.**

IV. "THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS . . ."

- A. Christ's blood washes our sins away, **Acts 22:16.**
- B. We need our sins washed away because sin cannot enter heaven.

1. “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” *Revelation 21:8.*
 2. “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” *Rev 21:27.*
- C. Someone was once asked the most beautiful word in the human language. Without hesitation, he said “*FORGIVENESS.*” Consider the beautiful implications of that word.
1. What would life be like if others would not extend forgiveness to us?
 2. What if GOD would not forgive us?
 3. We have forgiveness through Jesus Christ: “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” *Ephesians 4:32.*

V. “ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE.”

- A. Define grace -- **GRACE**: “Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves.”
- B. Notice the word **RICHES**: “not a small amount of grace, but *all that is needed* to secure the salvation of our souls.”
- C. “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, *grace abounded much more,*” *Romans 5:20.*
- D. We are “*justified freely* by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” **Romans 3:22-24.**
- E. We are saved by grace, but not by grace alone.
- F. It is because of the grace of God that He gave His Son to die for us. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” *John 3:16.*
- G. **SONG: AMAZING GRACE, #**

CONCLUSION:

- A. The gratitude that Noah had for God, because of what God did for him, is easily seen in the scriptures.
- B. How easily seen is our gratitude toward God for what He did for us?

DEBT HE DID NOT OWE

Martin 02/22/09

I. GOD HAS REDEEMED US (7a)

A. DEFINING “REDEMPTION”...

1. The Greek word is apolutrosis {ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis}
2. It means “a releasing effected by payment of ransom”
3. As Hendriksen defines it, “deliverance as a result of the payment of a ransom”
4. Hendriksen goes on to suggest that this “redemption” implies:
 - a. “emancipation...from the guilt, punishment, and power of sin” - cf. Jn 8:34; Ro 7:14; Ga 3:13
 - b. “restoration to true liberty” - cf. Jn 8:36

B. OUR REDEMPTION IS “THROUGH HIS (CHRIST’S) BLOOD”...

1. The price paid in order to redeem us was the blood of Jesus - cf. 1 Pe 1:18-19
 2. By His death on the cross, Jesus has paid the price to deliver us from the bondage of sin, for which He deserves our highest praise! - cf. Re 5:9, 12
- [We now see how God could carry out His choice to have a people who are holy and without blame, adopted as sons unto Him, when all He had to work with were “sinners”. Through the death of Jesus and the shedding of His blood, God was just to “redeem” or “deliver” sinners from the bondage of sin!
- There is another way to express what God has done to make it possible for us to be “holy and without blame before Him in love”, and that is, through His Son...]

II. GOD HAS FORGIVEN US (7b-8)

A. DEFINING “FORGIVENESS”...

1. The Greek word is aphasis {af'-es-is}, and it's shades of meaning include:
 - a. “release from bondage or imprisonment”
 - b. “forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty”
2. With the shedding of Jesus' blood, it is now possible to be “forgiven”, that is, “pardoned” so that we are no longer guilty of or imprisoned by sin

B. WHAT HAS BEEN FORGIVEN ARE OUR “SINS” (TRESPASSES)...

1. The Greek word here is paraptoma, {par-ap'-to-mah}
 - a. Lit., it means “a sideslip (lapse or deviation)”
 - b. Thus it refers to (unintentional) error or (willful) transgression
2. The very sort of things (faults, offenses, sins, trespasses) that would keep us from being “holy and without blame”
3. Through Jesus' blood, we can obtain “pardon” from such things, and be “holy and without

C. THE BASIS FOR BOTH “REDEMPTION” AND “FORGIVENESS” IS GOD’S GRACE...

1. “according to the riches of His grace” - 7c
 2. “which He made to abound toward us” - 8a
 3. As Paul told Titus, it is by God's mercy and grace we are justified - Ti 3:3-7
 4. This wonderful grace is manifested by God in all...
 - a. “wisdom” - from the Greek word sophia, {sof-ee'-ah}
- 1) Defined by Hendriksen as “that ability to apply knowledge to the best

advantage, enabling a person to use the most effective means for the attainment of the highest goal”

2) In God’s case, His wisdom is often beyond the capability of man to find out on his own - cf. Ro 11:33

b. “prudence” - from the Greek word phronesis {fron’-ay-sis }

1) Meaning “mental action or activity, i.e. intellectual or moral insight: prudence, wisdom.”

2) With much thought God has chosen to show His grace toward us!

[According to His wisdom, prudence, and grace, God has provided “redemption” and “forgiveness” through the blood of His dear Son!

But there is more! While God’s wisdom is often beyond the ability of man to find out on his own, through His Son...]

Hebrews 10:

http://executableoutlines.com/he/he_22.htm