

□ Ephesians – ‘A rich revelation of our inheritance

Ephesians 1:7-10. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Redeemed in Christ

V:7-8a. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us.

In Him we have redemption:

□ Why do we need ‘redemption’?

- Enslaved, guilty, condemned, unrighteous, eternally lost (Romans 1 to 4)

Romans 6:23. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

• Redemption

- “re-purchase of something sold”, “paying off a mortgage or debt”, “atoning for one’s mistakes”, “paying a ransom”

- “...we have...” - now – today – here

□ Redeemed through his blood

- The OT law requires an offering of an animal sacrifice without blemish

Hebrews 9:12-14. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Hebrews 9:22. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- **Jesus was without sin – innocent, pure, holy, righteous,**
- **Jesus’ sinlessness paid for our sinfulness**
- **Jesus’ blood was the ransom price for our redemption**
- **The forgiveness of sins**
 - **Because Jesus paid the ransom price, God had a basis to forgive us**
- **In accordance with the riches of God’s grace**
 - **A direct correlation or connection between God’s rich grace and His forgiveness**
- **That he lavished on us**
 - **Lavish: Sumptuously rich, elaborate, luxurious, impressive, bountiful, extravagant**
 - **God has forgiven us because of the enormity of His lavish resources, grace and love**

V:8b-10. With all wisdom and understanding he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

The mystery of His will:

- **What was the mystery of God’s will? (before Christ)**
- **The context...**
 - **A military occupation – Roman empire**
 - **Religious legalism – Jewish leaders**
 - **Prophetic expectations – ‘A Messiah will come’**

Matthew 12:2-3. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

John 11:27. Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

John 4:25-26. The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” 26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

□ **Calvary – our Saviour – amidst great confusion**

- Peter, who had said, “...you are the Christ...” runs and denies Jesus

Matthew 26:56. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

□ **Persecution of the young church**

- Paul: A proud arrogant Jew who hated and jailed Christians
 - Calvary AD 32/33, Pauls conversion AD 37, Paul in Ephesus AD 54-57
- Paul: Writing from Rome (AD 61-62) to reveal the glorious liberating truth

□ **What will the Messiah be like?**

- **To send his one and only son as the ‘Sinless Lamb of God’**
- **That God’s son should be the sacrifice for our sin**
- **To be redeemed, ransomed & reconciled to God through Calvary**
- **To become a child of God**
- **To come into the ‘Family of God’**
- **To be given access to His throne room**
- **With all wisdom and understanding He made known to us the mystery of his will**
- **According to his good pleasure which he purposed in Christ**
- **To be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment**

□ **The Church**

Matthew 16:18. And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hade will not overcome it.

A time of fulfillment is coming

- **To bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ**

□ **Eternity with Christ**

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The grand conclusion when He wraps everything up

- **A finale is coming**
- **For some – at death, for some – at Jesus' return – Eternity in heaven**

What does 'Eternity' mean for us?

- **Suggested viewing and reading**
 - YouTube: The Arthur Stace Story: Finding Meaning in Eternity
 - Mr Eternity – The Story of Arthur Stace (Koorong)