

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians

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CHAPTER FOUR -

THE SON'S PART IN OUR REDEMPTION

Ephesians 1, verse 7

"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

GOD the Father planned our redemption (Ephesians 1:4-6). GOD the Son actually provided our redemption. The last part of verse 6 clearly tells us that GOD accepts us in the beloved - and that involves another person . . . JESUS is the Beloved of the Father.

Just why is JESUS "beloved"? He tells us: **"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father"** (John 10:17-18). Our finite minds will never be able to grasp or understand the depth of the co-working of GOD the Father and GOD the SON in our redemption. But through the sacrifice made by the Beloved, GOD has **"translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son"** (Colossians 1:13). The language of the Bible for that verse reads, "translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." The love demonstrated by GOD in giving His SON, the love demonstrated by the SON in freely giving Himself (the just for the unjust), will be the marvel of all eternity.

Redemption is through His Blood. JESUS said, **"The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many"** (Matthew 20:28). In the book of Leviticus (the "Hebrews" of the Old Testament), we read, **"The life... is in the Blood"** (Leviticus 17:11). Therefore, JESUS came to give His Blood a ransom for many.

The Blood of JESUS was pure, holy, sinless, guileless, stainless - the Blood that ran through the veins of JESUS was the Blood of Jehovah GOD (Acts 20:28). The Blood is the price JESUS paid for our redemption.

The result of the giving of the Blood is **"the forgiveness of sins."** In the Old Testament GOD thundered out (and He has not changed His mind), **"The soul that sinneth, it shall die!"** Again, through the prophet, GOD said, **"All we like sheep have gone astray."**

Through the New Testament writer, The HOLY GHOST declares, **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."** Through the beloved. John, The HOLY SPIRIT has given to us the

definition of sin: **"Whosoever committeth sin TRANSGRESSETH ALSO THE LAW: FOR SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW"** (I John 3:4). Therefore, according to the standard of Jehovah GOD we are all supposed to be in hell; but GOD in His grace provided a way of escape.

However, **"without shedding of Blood is no remission"** (Hebrews 9:22). **"The Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us . . ."** (I John 1:7). In the book of Leviticus, ten times The HOLY SPIRIT connects the atonement of the Blood with the forgiveness of the sinner's sins. Jehovah GOD knows no other way except the Bloodway. It has been GOD's way since the Garden of Eden. Adam was covered with the skins produced by a Blood sacrifice . . . innocent animals gave their Blood to provide coats of skins for Adam and Eve. Later, the son of Adam thought he would get away with a Bloodless offering - but he did not. Abel **"by faith"** brought a Blood offering and GOD accepted it. Cain, in his own wisdom, brought fruit . . . Bloodless. GOD rejected Cain's offering.

Since that hour GOD has demanded Blood - and without Blood there is no remission! By every animal, innocent and without blemish, slain in sacrifice according to the direction of Jehovah GOD, GOD was saying through the death of that animal, **"MY Lamb, My Son, is going to die!"**

Then one day, John the Baptist pointed to a Man and cried out, **"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!"** (John 1:29).

A little later, on a cruel Cross planted on Mount Calvary, the LAMB of GOD poured out His Blood. The eternal purpose of Jehovah GOD was achieved. JESUS said before He died, **"IT IS FINISHED!"** (John 19:30). What a marvelous statement - in our language only three words, but in those three words He was saying, "I have accomplished what I came to accomplish! My Father's plan for remission of sins is complete. My Blood has been shed. I have laid my life down. It is accomplished!"

Men of GOD who have studied the language and the customs of the day of JESUS tell us that the word **"redeem"** has to do with slaves . . . men and women who were bought and sold in the slave market. Of course, we (all of us) were slaves to sin, in bondage to the master of sin, the devil; but now those of us who have received JESUS are free-born sons of GOD. We belong to the family of GOD, the household of GOD; and since we are the sons of GOD in CHRIST JESUS, bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh, we who are born again **". . . have the mind of Christ"** (I Corinthians 2:16). Therefore, JESUS is able to take us into His intimate confidence and make known to us who are born again believers, the mystery hidden in the ages behind us. JESUS says to all true, born again children of GOD, **"Henceforth (from this day on) I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you"** (John 15:15). What a glorious revelation!

Through the Blood we have forgiveness of sins; and the forgiveness of our sins is **"ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE."** I am sure you who are saved will agree with me that there are not enough adjectives in all the languages of all the world to describe the riches of God's grace. Thank God, I am forgiven through the riches of His grace . . . not the meager labor of my hands! Verses 8-12: **"Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all**

wisdom and prudence; having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: that in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ."

Certainly we will never understand all Scripture. There is much of it past finding out so far as the finite creature is concerned; but it is the good pleasure of JESUS to reveal unto the spiritually minded the deep things of the Scriptures.

For instance: ". . . **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. BUT God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God**" (I Corinthians 2:9-10). Again: "**But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things . . . But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him**" (I John 2:20 and 27).

It is the good pleasure of GOD to reveal unto us the deep things of the Word, and of the world to come. He has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence. James invites: "**If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.**" The wise man, Solomon, declared: "**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.**"

Paul says, "**Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him.**"

The dispensation of the fulness of times is the seventh and last of the dispensational ages. It will be the time when King JESUS will sit on the throne in Jerusalem and reign over the house of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom here on this earth. You will find the description of this kingdom in II Samuel 7:8-17, Zechariah 12:8, Isaiah 11.

In Luke 1:31-33 The HOLY SPIRIT tells the virgin Mary that her son will be called JESUS, He will be great, He will be the SON of GOD - and that He will sit on the throne of His father David.

Some dear Christians feed only on the milk of the Word. Of course, the milk is good - but we need to go on to strong meat. The redemption purchased by the Blood of JESUS CHRIST does not stop with the redemption of the soul. All creation will be delivered from the curse, all creation will be set free in the fulness of times.

For instance, Paul sets forth the glorious truth that there is no condemnation to them which are in CHRIST JESUS, and that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. He goes on to say, "**For the earnest expectation of the**

creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God (that will be at the Rapture of the church). **For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope** (referring to Jesus Christ and the redemption He purchased through His Blood), **Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.** (The creature refers to all creation - earth, the animal kingdom and the solar system. All things will be made new.) **FOR WE KNOW THAT THE WHOLE CREATION GROANETH AND TRAVAILETH IN PAIN TOGETHER UNTIL NOW. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves GROAN WITHIN OURSELVES, waiting for the adoption, to wit, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY"** (Romans 8:19-23).

Paul said, "**ourselves also.**" That refers to himself, and to every believer. Beloved, as long as we remain on this earth we are not at home. We are strangers, we are among enemies. As long as we remain in this body we will groan and suffer. Even those of us who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan and travail. We are looking forward to the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of JESUS, when we will receive our glorified bodies.

Please notice the redemption of the body. With His Blood JESUS purchased redemption, deliverance, freedom - for all of GOD's creation. Please do not think that I am suggesting that animals can be born again. That is not so. But if you will read Isaiah 11 you will discover that the Kingdom on earth will have an abundance of animals: The bear, the lamb, the kid, the lion, the snake, and there will be no killing, no destroying in GOD's holy mountain, the Kingdom. This earth will be delivered from the bondage of corruption, and there will be peace on earth when the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth as the waters now cover the sea.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME! In verse 11 we read, "**In whom (JESUS) also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.**"

JESUS is the provider of all spiritual blessings. The Greek word for "**inheritance**" suggests that we have an allotment. In other words, in JESUS we are allotted an eternal inheritance. Paul is speaking here of us who were outcasts, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, stripped of all the promises and the covenants, deserving nothing, without GOD and without hope. We in CHRIST are "**heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**" (Romans 8:17). In JESUS, "**All things are yours**" (I Corinthians 3:21-23). What a boundless inheritance! Certainly far past all human understanding. The person who is born again has at his disposal all that Heaven affords.

"**We have obtained an inheritance.**" But in the Lord JESUS CHRIST We were made a heritage. That is, the Lord JESUS will inherit us. We who are believers make up the New Testament church (I Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 5:27). JESUS will present to Himself the church without spot or wrinkle; therefore, we are His heritage . . . His inheritance. At the marriage supper in the sky, the Bride (the New Testament church made up of all born again, Blood washed, redeemed children of God) will be presented to the Lord JESUS . . . His inheritance . . . in that day when He makes up His jewels. It was for this joy set before the Lord JESUS that He endured the Cross . . . He did not enjoy the Cross, He endured it, despising the shame; but for the joy on the other side of the Cross, namely, the church without spot or wrinkle, He set His eye upon Calvary and marched on to the horrible agony, the shedding of His Blood

for the remission of sin - the redemption price of the sinner. Through His Blood, He purchased sinners for His very own.

THEREFORE: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure" (I John 3:2-3).

"Beloved" . . . what a wonderful position, what a wonderful condition! In JESUS, redeemed, adopted, sons of the living GOD, members of the Body of CHRIST, seated in the heavenlies with JESUS. The most glorious of the glory is the fact that we are NOW the possessors of these tremendous spiritual blessings.

Let us now go on to . . .THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PART IN OUR REDEMPTION

~ end of chapter 4 ~

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