

The only way that we can be set free [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ

- Big Idea: The only way that we can be set free from sin and death is through Jesus Christ
- Structure:
  - We have redemption
    - Through his Blood
    - The Forgiveness of sins
  - Because of his Grace

## **INTRO**

- The only way that we can be set free from sin and death is through Christ
  - Not through trying really hard
  - Not through doing good things to try and outweigh the bad,
  - Not through karma,
- The only way that we can be set free from sin and death is through Christ.
  - Now, to some people, that might seem quite limiting or cruel.
  - Some people may think that God's love just wins and everyone gets eternal life; and that limiting it to just those who are in Christ is obnoxious and arrogant.
  - But to me, this is the most amazing thing. And it stuns me into thanksgiving every time I hear it.
- So, if you only remember one thing from today's passage, Paul wants it to be this.
- The only way that we can be set free from sin and death is through Christ
- Because what we will see this morning is that:
  - We have redemption
  - Because of his Grace
- But first let's recap what we've seen over the past two weeks:
- We saw that everything starts with praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Because it's from him that we receive the blessings that we have received and that is seen throughout this whole passage
- We've seen that we have been chosen by God before we existed...before the world even existed!
  - That we have been especially chosen by God to be holy and blameless and to be his people.
- Then we saw how we were lovingly adopted to be his children
  - We saw that God wasn't cold and calculating when choosing us, but he was loving and joyful

The only way that we can be set free [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ

- And that we were adopted to praise him and his glorious, phenomenal grace
- And this week we come to explore what it means for us to be redeemed.
- It would be a great help and a great encouragement to me if you would have that passage open in front of you from Ephesians 1 in your bibles or on your devices.
- Let me read again from V7..
  - *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace*

### **We Have Redemption**

- In the Beloved, or in Christ, we have redemption.
- So what does this mean, have redemption or to be 'redeemed'
  - *Well in today's society, we often redeem things.*
  - *We sometimes get a voucher or a shopper-docket which says, 'hand over voucher to redeem this offer'.*
  - *So, if we are taken fancy with the cheap massage on offer on the back of our Woolworths receipt, we take that voucher in, hand it over, and then we would get to enjoy our massage at a cheap price.*
  - *We 'redeem' the deal*
- Now, instead of redeeming cheap massages, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, *people* were redeemed.
- The word 'redemption' was often used to describe a transaction.
  - In the times of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, when an empire was at war, they could take prisoners of war and put them to work as slaves.
  - After some time, they might decide that they wanted to get rid of these slaves and so they would make a deal with the country that they were at war with.
  - The deal would be that the slave would be freed at a price.
  - When the price was payed, then the slave would be released or 'redeemed'
- Centuries before Paul and the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, there was a great redemption.
- The nation of Israel was being held captive by Pharaoh in Egypt.
- They were slaves in Egypt in harsh conditions and they needed rescuing.
- Now, God had a great plan to rescue them which involved Moses and in Exodus 6:6, God tells Moses to say:
  - Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm **Exod 6:6**

The only way that we can be set free [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ

- So, God rescued and freed the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt!
- They weren't freed because of anything that they had done but because of God's grace. That is what redemption is!
- And it was so important, that Israel were constantly commanded not to forget this great redemption.
- So, **Duet 15:15**:
  - You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you;
- And in our OT reading from 2 Samuel, David is seen praising God and recalling the great act of redemption of Israel.
- Israel, the the helpless slaves of Egypt were redeemed by their loving God
  
- But Here in Ephesians, Paul tells us that those in Christ have been **redeemed**.
- So, what does that mean?
- Well, it means that those in Christ have been rescued. Those in Christ have been set free!
- But set free from what?
  - Paul tells us in Romans 6:20
  - When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. **21** What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! **Rom 2:20-21**
- Before redemption, we were slaves to sin which ultimately, results in death.
- And here's the thing
  - When you're a slave, you can't free yourself.
  - When you're a slave, you are under the control of another
  - And when you're a slave, you are at the mercy of another
- Because we were slaves to sin, we couldn't free ourselves.
  - We were under the control of sin,
  - we were at the mercy of sin and we were all headed for death.
  - We were headed to be under the holy wrath of God
- Have a glance over at Eph 2:3
  - All of us also lived among them [those that are slaves to sin] at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath
- Our rejection of God and our following of sin and Satan leads to us rightly coming under the judgement of God
- And there's nothing that we can do to escape it.

The only way that we can be set free [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ

- Without some kind of intervention, we are left in a helpless state of being slaves of sin.
  - under the judgement of God
  - under the wrath of God
  - And headed for eternal punishment!
- But there is something that has been done to rescue us from it.
  - V7 – in Him we have redemption
- In Christ, we have our freedom.
- In Christ, we have our rescue.
- In Christ, God has had mercy on his lovingly adopted children and rescued us from our captivity and slavery to sin.
- Rescuing us from eternal punishment!
- And this is something we have right now in the present!
  - We are free from the chains of slavery to sin
  - We are free from the punishment of death
  - And we are free to be... free - children of the living God
- Once we were slaves, bound by a cruel master, now the chains have been broken, and we have been set free for eternal life!

### **Through His Blood**

- But how was this achieved?
- Well V7 again:
  - In Christ we have redemption, **through his blood**
- It is through the blood of Christ that we have been rescued
- Through his bloody, death on the cross, we have redemption
- Because of our slavery to sin, we deserved death, we were headed for death
- BUT God in his great love and mercy, sent his son Jesus to take the punishment that we deserve
- He took our place, so that we might be redeemed from our slavery.
  - Friends, without the cross, we would be left under the judgement of God
  - If Jesus never went to the cross, then we would still be under sin
- BUT he did! He did go to the cross
- And that's why it is so important in our faith!
- That's why we go on about this week after week and

The only way that we can be set free [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ

- That's why we will never stop preaching about the cross, because it's at the cross that we are redeemed and only through the resurrection that we can have life eternal!
- Because:
  - Our hope is built on nothing less, then Jesus blood and righteousness,
  - And it was on that Cross as Jesus died, That the wrath of God was satisfied

### **The forgiveness of sins**

- And because of all of these things, our sins have been forgiven
  - V7 again:
    - In Him we have redemption, through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- More specifically, the greek here describes that we have been freed or liberated from our individual offences
- So we have been redeemed and set free from being a slave to sin and living in a sinful state,
- AND we are also released and liberated from the guilt of the individual sins!
- We have this, right now!
  - We don't have to dwell on or panic about our individual wrongdoings because here, we see that we have been freed and released from them!
    - Although, that doesn't give us an excuse to go do whatever we want
  - But we are liberated from our sins.
- Because, The **only** way that we can be set free from sin and death is through Jesus.
- The only way to be in a right relationship with God is through Jesus
- Why?
  
- Well that brings us to our second (shorter) point
- Because of his Grace

### **Because of His Grace**

- Everything that we have explored in the past weeks and today only comes as a gift.
- V7-8
  - 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.
- All this happens because of God's rich, abundant grace.
- So we learn a couple of things here about grace.
- Firstly, God has an abundance of Grace

The only way that we can be set free [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ

- Paul describes it as riches or wealth of grace.
- There is more than enough for his purposes
- Secondly, we learn he doesn't withhold his grace.
  - There is all this grace stored up that has potential
  - And God does not keep his abundance of grace away from his children
  - In fact, He doesn't even give them have a little slice of grace
- BUT He lavishes his grace on us!
  - *Growing up and to this today, I appreciate peanut butter and apricot jam sandwiches on white bread.*
  - *Not much nutritional value and full of sugar but sometimes I can't help myself!*
  - *So when I make it, I make the most of my opportunity and spread heaps of the stuff on, until it's practically oozing out the side*
  - *I lavish the spreads on!!*
- The almighty, creator, ever-living, holy God who has all the right to withhold grace from every human in his creation *doesn't withhold his grace..*
- No, he lavishes his grace **into** us.
  - He makes it abound into us!
  - Our cup is overflowing with God's grace,
  - He doesn't hold back!
- Our great loving Father, has an amazing abundance of grace which he causes to overflow in us his children.
- And this comes to us only through and in Jesus Christ.
- We've seen this phrase a number of times throughout this passage already and there's a good reason for this.
- Paul wants us to know, that everything we receive, we receive because of Christ.
- Let's think about this together for a second.
  - IF there was a way to get to eternity without Jesus, then that would make the act of doing that thing a *work*
  - IF there was a way to achieve these blessings without Jesus, then that would be a *work*
  - And that would be a very big problem
- Because we know, that the bible tells us that there is no work that we can do that can get us to God.
  - There is nothing that we can do to get ourselves out of slavery
  - There is nothing that we can do to make ourselves alive

The only way that we can be set free [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ

- BECAUSE we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
- No work can be done by us, to erase and free us from all of that sin
- But something has been done.
- We have been redeemed in **Christ Through His Blood ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS GRACE**
  - Redemption, election, justification, freedom, life eternal can only come to us through Jesus, because of God's, relentless, abundant GRACE.
  - His grace which he doesn't hold back but which he lavishes into us.
  
- The only way that we can be set free from sin and death is through Christ
- It's in him that we have our redemption.
  - We have our great rescue from the grips and chains of slavery to sin.
  - We have our great rescue from death to life!
- It's through his blood that it is done
  - His death in our place secured us our redemption
  - His resurrection, secured our eternal life
- All of these things liberate and release us from our sin
- And we receive these things by his grace
  - Through his rich, abundant grace
  - His grace which he lovingly pours out on us until it overflows!
  - His grace that only comes through Jesus Christ
- Because The only way that we can be [redeemed] from sin and death is through Jesus Christ