



Date: **1-13-2019**

Scripture: **Ephesians 1:7-10**

Like Romans, Ephesians is one of Paul's most theologically packed books. Chapters 1-3 lay the foundation for the applications that follow in chapters 4-6. When you read Ephesians you walk away with the realization that the foundation for our calling to live for Christ is rooted and grounded in certain theological truths – theology is for living! One commentator summed up the message of Ephesians as “the eternal purpose of God which he is fulfilling through his Son Jesus Christ, and working out in and through the church.”¹

Last week, in Eph. 1:1-6, we looked at the *will* of God in salvation. This week, in Eph. 1:7-10, we focused on salvation as *redemption*. This entire passage stretches past the redemption Israel received in the OT in their rescue from Egypt² to “before the foundation of the world” (vs. 4) and pushes our focus beyond the present to God uniting all things in Christ “for the fullness of time.” (vs.10) Salvation is a plan, THE plan, for the ages past, present, and future.

Digging into the Passage:

- From vs. 3 how is God blessed in blessing us through Christ?
- From vs. 3-6 what is the focus of the Father's role in salvation?³
- Why is it important that the Father's choosing of us “in him” is “before the foundation of the world?”⁴
- How does the term and practice of adoption help us understand our salvation?
- Some people who disagree with election do so with the assumption that it would have to be done arbitrarily⁵. What does this passage tell us about how the Father's choosing is decided?
- In light of vs. 3-6, what is the will of God the Father in our salvation?
- Read Heb. 9:11-22 - What does the blood of Christ's sacrifice do for us that the blood of the OT sacrifices didn't?
- Given all the aspects of salvation that point to Jesus Christ, why does Paul focus on “redemption through his blood”?
- What is the mystery of God's will that is made known to us in Christ?
- Why is Christ the center of God's redemptive plan for the ages?⁶

¹ Foulkes, Francis in Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Ephesians, Reprint Ed. 2008 (IVP: Dowers Grove, IL), pg. 20.

² This was the defining redemptive event for Israel as seen throughout the OT in all genres. Deut. 6:10-12 is just one example of calling Israel to remember this redemptive event, to which they will be called to time and time again.

³ In Eph. 1:3-14 we see the role each person of the trinity (Father, Son, and Spirit) plays in salvation.

⁴ See Rom. 9:6-12 as a real life example of this as an answer.

⁵ This is an ongoing debate between Arminians and Calvinists, though both sides can affirm what is being said in this passage.



Reflecting on the Passage:

- What are the spiritual blessings we receive from the Father in salvation?
- When you read these verses, what thoughts about the Father and Son come to mind and why?
- How does Paul's description of the Father and Son's role in our salvation keep us from trying to redeem ourselves and how is this central to the good news of the gospel?
- How does this passage cause you to worship God?
- How does it strengthen you for life and living?
- What can you take away?
- What does it contain that you can share with someone else to be an encouragement to them?
- How does it provide victory?
- How does it provide hope?

Challenge for the week: For at least one week read Eph. 1:1-14 each day as a couple or a family and thanks/praise God for he has done in salvation.

⁶ To see Christ as the center is not to minimize or marginalize the role of the Father and Spirit in salvation.