

## Ephesians

### Lesson #4, Chapter 1:7-14

Before you begin this lesson, ask God to help you study with an eager heart to learn and apply His word.

1. Review last week's lesson by listing how God has blessed us from verses 1-6.
2. In verse 6 Paul ends his thought by talking about the grace God has given us in the Beloved, who is Jesus Christ. What do we have *in Him* (in Christ) according to verse 7?
3. Define *redemption* (Strong's #629).
4. How was that redemption accomplished according to verse 7?
5. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about redemption from the Scriptures: Matt. 20:28; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Col. 1:14; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:12; 1 Pet: 1:18-19.
6. One result of redemption is found in verse 7. What is it?

7. What part did God's grace play in our redemption? Why are we so dependent upon God's grace? Define *grace* [Strong's #5485] before you answer this question.
  
8. Paul says the grace we receive is *according to* rather than *out of* God's grace in verse 7. Explain the difference between those two phrases as you consider God's grace. Reading the story of the poor widow in Mark 12:41-44 will help with this answer.
  
9. Paul says that God lavished His grace upon us. Define *lavished* (KJV abounded [Strong's #4052]). What does Paul want us to understand about God?

Note: Because this section is one great, exuberant sentence in the Greek, the translators have done their best translating it into English. However, there are slight variations within each of the Bible translations which affect how we read and understand this passage. For example, the ESV, NKJV, and NIV link verse 8 to the contents of verse 7, while the NASB has *wisdom* and *insight* connected to the contents of verse 9. These translation differences may change the nuances of understanding, but it doesn't change the overall meaning of the verse. For example, in verses 7-8, did God lavish His grace upon us, or did He lavish His grace upon us in all wisdom and insight? There is a difference in the Bible versions, but the key elements of the verse remain the same. If helpful, we will note those distinctions, though we will follow the NASB rendering of the verses for this study.

10. What is the mystery to which Paul alludes in verse 9? See also Rom. 16:25-27; Eph. 3:3-6, 9, 11-12; 6:19; Col. 1:25-27.
  
11. As we move into verse 10, we can read the verse with the understanding that God made known to us His will concerning Christ, and that there is coming a day when all things will be completed, fulfilled and summed up in Christ—things in the heavens and things

in the earth. Look up 1 Cor. 15:20-28 and Phil. 2:10-11 to see how that will be accomplished.

12. Verse 11 reveals that in Christ we have received an inheritance. What is our inheritance? Matt. 19:29; Col. 1:12; Heb. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:4-5.
  
13. Why do we receive an inheritance according to verses 11-12?
  
14. Read Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:5, 11 then complete the following sentence: God predestined me so that \_\_\_\_\_.
  
15. Define *predestined* [Strong's #4309].

My husband, Jack, explains predestination like this: Predestination, election, foreknowledge, calling, and choosing do not mean that God looks into the future and sees who will receive the gospel and be saved, then in response, chooses them to be predestined on the basis of what He knows they are going to do. *This makes man sovereign over God's plan of salvation.* It contradicts the meaning of the words *predestination* and *election*. The Bible nowhere speaks of God choosing us in response to our faith, but that our response of faith is conditional upon His choosing us.

16. What can you observe about those who *hope in Christ* from verse 12?

17. Explain what it means to live *to the praise of His glory* (verse 12)?
  
18. Think of it! As a believer, how you live your life can bring praise and glory to God, or it can bring shame and dishonor to His name. Choose one area in your life this week that you would like to work on so that it will bring praise and glory to God. Put away those things that could bring shame and dishonor to His name.
  
19. How is the message of truth described in verse 13?
  
20. What is our response to be to the message of truth, and what happens to us as a result according to verses 13-14?
  
21. What does it mean to be *sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit*? See Eph. 4:30; 2 Tim. 2:19.
  
22. Define *pledge* (KJV *earnest*; NIV *deposit* [Strong's #728]). See also 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:1, 4-5.
  
23. What amazing truth is revealed in verse 14 that will bring praise and glory to God?

24. We have learned so much, and yet we have only skimmed the surface of these truths. Let's pull together what we have learned from verses 7-14 by completing the following statements:
- a. God has done incredible things for me. He has \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - b. In Christ, I have \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - c. Even the Holy Spirit has been \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - d. Thank you, Lord, for \_\_\_\_\_.
  
  - e. These truths cause me \_\_\_\_\_.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King.  
~Henry F. Lyte<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Lyte, Henry F., "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven." *Hymns for the Family of God*. Ed. Fred Bock. (Nashville: Paragon Associates, Inc. 1976).