



ENOGERA BAPTIST CHURCH
Jesus changes lives

EPHESIANS: PART #1 SALVATION



Ephesians #2 – We Are Chosen (1:7-10)

Ephesians 1:7- In him we have redemption through his blood...

NOTE FOR LEADERS

This document is intended to be used as a discussion *guide*, rather than a curriculum. As small group leaders, please feel free to lead through the topic as most appropriate for your group.

HOUSEKEEPING

Things going at the moment:

- **Church Wide Prayer Night:** Wednesday 11th September 7pm
- **Alpha Course Launch! Thursday 29th August. Register online!**
 - **Pray** – God’s Spirit to draw people and open up their hearts
 - **Invite** – friends and family to attend
 - **Cater** – Food is important for loving our guests, so if you’d like to serve by cooking, that’d be highly valued.



EPHESIANS #2 – WE ARE REDEEMED (1:7-10)

REFLECT

This is a time to generate some discussion by reflecting on the ideas in this week's message. Some ideas include:

- Ask the group to debrief for those who have missed the sermons on Sunday
- What stood out? Do you have any questions?
- Were there any special moments of clarity where God spoke to you clearly?

DIG INTO THE WORD

Let's dig a little deeper. Use the biblical text to discover what God reveals to us in his Word.

Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



APPLY

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scriptures apply directly to their lives. Get group members to talk about the real-life implications of the study.

1. **DISCUSS:** How are we to apply these things? Are there any immediate implications?
2. **DECISIONS:** Can you think of a time you made a bad decision because you believed something untrue? How would you have acted different had you known the truth? (*think back to Jules's story of almost piercing his ear!*)
3. **LIES:** What lies do you believe that define who you are and impact the way you will act? i.e. *your state of sin, the type of sin you commit or even the temptation to avoid God to 'avoid' shame.*
4. **WE ARE REDEEMED BY JESUS' BLOOD (v7):**
 - a. What does 'Redemption' mean in the Ephesian context? *The setting free of a person from slavery because a payment was made.*
 - b. What is it that makes a believer redeemed? What is it they are redeemed from? *Believers are redeemed by Jesus blood – not their works or efforts or success. They are redeemed from sin and its shackles.*
 - c. If the truth is that you are redeemed now (according to God's word), how does that change your actions or decisions in your life? *What you believe is how you'll act. If you believe you're redeemed because of the blood of Christ and not your works, then coming to God when you've sinned is easier. It also makes pursuing Christ-likeness easier.*
5. **WE ARE REDEEMED BECAUSE OF HIS WISDOM AND INSIGHT (v8-9):**
 - a. Spend 5 minutes reflecting on what it means that God's plan of redemption for you was the most wise and insightful thing He could do.
 - i. *Redemption is meaningful, and well thought through by God*
 - ii. *Your redemption was made out of pity for us, but because of wisdom and insight and love.*
 - iii. *God intentionally told the World how to be redeemed.*
6. **WE ARE REDEEMED FOR BLESSED UNITY (v9-10):**
 - a. In God's cosmic/overall plan for the fulness of time, what does it mean that all things will be united in Christ? *All creation will be in submission to Jesus' holy standards and rule.*
 - b. In God's personal plan for humanity, what does it mean for believers that they are united in Christ? How does our "in-Christ-ness" motivate our pursuit of God's purpose for us to be "holy and blameless" (v4)? *Draw the similarities of a covenant of marriage and our unity in Him being our source of change and new direction and identity/responsibility. The truth of our standing before God will impact our actions.*
7. **PRAY AS A GROUP:** *What shackles or sins are you going back to that you need strength in letting go of? Jesus has redeemed you by his blood, meaning you are now his and set apart for his ways. Pray for one another over things that are holding you back from living or feeling like a redeemed child of God.*



PRAY

Pray for one another as we seek to embrace our true identity in Christ.

Pray that we would know the assurance that comes from knowing we are *redeemed in Christ*.

NOTES

1:3–3:21 *Calling of the Church Within Christ's Cosmic Reconciliation.* Paul unfolds for his readers God's eternal plan to unify all things in Christ, and explains how the church is to understand its call and identity—who it is, how it came about, and what its mission is within this plan.

1:3–14 *Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ.* Appearing as one long sentence in the original Greek, this section is often called a “doxology.” Here, Paul praises God for his spiritual blessings in Christ (v. 3). These blessings are based on the work of the triune God: election and adoption by the Father (vv. 4–6), redemption in Christ (vv. 7–12), and sealing in the Spirit (vv. 13–14). Each of these three subsections concludes with a similar refrain that praises God's glory (vv. 6, 12, 14). This entire section presents a grand sweep of God's saving purposes. It begins with our election from “before the creation of the world” (v. 4) and climaxes with the pronouncement of God's will to bring unity to the cosmos under Christ (v. 10).

1:7 we have. A present reality. **redemption.** Denotes releasing someone from imprisonment or slavery through paying a ransom. Just as God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt (Deut 7:8), Christ also procured the release of believers from captivity to evil, death, and the “curse of the law” (Gal 3:13) by his sacrificial death (“through his blood”; cf. Eph 2:13; Heb 9:15; 1 Pet 1:18–19). Redemption not only cancels God's just judgment against our acts of disobedience (“forgiveness of sins”; cf. Col 1:14) but it also frees us from the spiritual forces that formerly bound us (Eph 2:1–3). See also 1:14; 4:30; Rom 3:24; Titus 2:14.

1:9 mystery. The mystery religions of Paul's day use “mystery” (Greek *mystērion*) to refer to an esoteric truth that is known only to its initiates. Paul, however, uses it to refer to a divine reality that was once hidden but is now revealed by God to his people (3:3–5, 9; Rom 16:25–26; Col 1:26). The most significant references to Paul's use of “mystery” occur in Ephesians and Colossians. Both letters maintain that the central focus of God's mystery is the fulfillment of his plan of salvation in Christ; Ephesians, however, highlights the uniting of all things in Christ. See notes on v. 10; 3:3–6; 5:32; 6:19.

1:10 bring unity. Greek *anakephalaioō*. A significant term that conveys three emphases in this context: (1) Christ is the head or ruler (v. 22), (2) Christ “sums up” or brings things into a coherent and meaningful whole, and (3) Christ restores harmony to a universe that has come into chaos because of



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sin (Col 1:20). In essence, the content of the “mystery” (Eph 1:9) is God’s will to sum up and unify all creation, both the animate and inanimate, under Christ’s headship.¹

REFERENCE:

Developed with the help of the following:

- ESV Study Bible, Crossway.
- NIV Zondervan Study Bible.

¹ Moo, D. J. (2015). [The Letters and Revelation](#). In D. A. Carson (Ed.), *NIV Zondervan Study Bible: Built on the Truth of Scripture and Centered on the Gospel Message* (p. 2400). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.