**Ephesians 1:7-14**

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 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: (Ephesians 1:7-10)

**Forgiveness of Sins**

* Day of Atonement
  + Two goats
    - One sacrificed for the sins of the high priest and his family
    - One to bear the sins of “all the iniquities of the children of Israel”
      * 20 ¶ And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy *place*, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send *him* away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness. (Lev 16:20-22)
* As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalms 103:12)
* 18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy. 19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:18-19)

**According to the riches of his grace**

* John MacArthur
  + If I go to a rich man, he's a millionaire. And I say - Oh, I have a need for $25,000 for a wonderful project I would like to do, oh, it's so important to me. Would you mind supporting this project? My brother, I'd be happy to. And he writes me out a check for $25.00. I say - $25.00? This is out of your riches.
  + I go to another rich man. I say - Rich man, I need $25,000 for this wonderful project for the Lord's work. He sits down and writes me a check - $30,000. He says - There's an extra five in case you need some more. Oh; you gave me according to your riches. See the difference? When God gives He doesn't give out of He gives... what?...according to. Always in abundance.

Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence

* wisdom – the wisdom which belongs to men
* prudence – the wisdom related to spiritual or eternal matters (knowledge and holy love of the will of God)
  + At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. (Matthew 11:25)

Purpose of redemption?

* 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: (Ephesians 1:10)
  + 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; 11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

11 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: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-14)

Question

* What would you think of a parent who always threatens their children that they are going to disown them and take them to an orphanage?
  + We would identify this parent as cruel and sinful.
* How then can we ever think that God would have us to be constantly worried about our security as a believer?

V 11 “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,….”

What is the inheritance?

* 3 ¶ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (1 Peter 1:3-4)
* Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:24)
* And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. (Romans 8:17)
* Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?(James 2:5)
* Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:4)
  + Great promises of God
* The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)
* Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) (Heb 10:23)
* And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. (Romans 4:21)

V12 “….who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will”

* worketh - energeo (en-erg-eh’-o)
  1. to be operative, be at work, put forth power

1a) to work for one, aid one

* 1. to effect
  2. to display one’s activity, show one’s self operative
* Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ: (Philippians 1:6 )

V 11-13 Balance of God’s Sovereignty and Man’s Responsibility

* God’s Sovereignty
  + “…..being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will”
* Man’s Responsibility
  + “In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation…”

V13”….ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise…..”

* 20 For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:20-22)
* And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30)
* Seal
  + sphragizo (sfrag-id’-zo)
  + AV-seal 22, set to (one’s) seal 1, stop 1, seal up 1, set a seal 1, vr seal 1; 27
  + 1) to set a seal upon, mark with a seal, to seal
    - 1a) for security: from Satan
    - 1b) since things sealed up are concealed (as the contents of a letter), to hide, keep in silence, keep secret
    - 1c) in order to mark a person or a thing
      * 1c1) to set a mark upon by the impress of a seal or a stamp
      * 1c2) angels are said to be sealed by God
    - 1d) in order to prove, confirm, or attest a thing
      * 1d1) to confirm authenticate, place beyond doubt
      * 1d1a) of a written document
  + Seal signifies
    - For security – Similar to sealing a tomb
      * So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch. (Matt 27:66)
    - Identify Ownership – Seal marked property or documents bas belonging to the one who put his seal upon it.
    - Authenticate / Place Beyond Doubt – It has the official seal. It is official – we are a child of the King!
  + When are we sealed? When are we indwelled by the Holy Spirit?
    - 2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? 4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. 5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Galatians 3:2-5)
    - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (Romans 8:9)
  + “…..of promise….”
* Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?(James 2:5)
* Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:4)
  + Great promises of God
* The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)
* Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) (Heb 10:23)
  + And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. (Romans 4:21)

V 14 “Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

* Earnest – down payment.

Unto the praise of his glory

* Stephen Cole – “You will not praise and glorify God properly unless you feel secure in His eternal love that saved you from your sin and sealed you for His own possession.”