

Ephesians. The Identity of the Church that Overcomes.

Part 7: Awestruck by His Glorious Grace!

Houses of Light Church • July 28, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez

Focus: Ephesians 1:7-8

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...” Ephesians 1:7-8

[**The definition of redemption:** rescued or delivered by means of payment. — We studied this previously and we talked about how there are 3 stages of redemption. Today, we are going to dive deeper into these 3 sages to understand why God’s grace is so glorious, and why everything is for the praise of the glory of His grace!]

I. In Him we have REDEMPTION. (v.7a)

A. From the past: We are rescued from guilt through forgiveness.

1. In the first stage of redemption, we are freed from guilt and condemnation When we disobey God’s law **we are guilty**. None of us have fulfilled the requirements of His laws and statutes, which means we deserve judgement. **We are in danger before Him if we have not been redeemed**

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, ... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

Ephesians 2:1-2

2. It’s bad enough to be guilty and dead, but it’s even more terrible to be under the wrath of the omnipotent, righteous Creator of the universe. In this first stage of redemption, we are also freed from God’s wrath and punishment.

“For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh...”

Romans 8:3

God sent His son, who was fully man and yet did not sin. There, in Christ’s physical body, God condemned our sin. **This is called substitution** (Isa.53:4-6). **God sent His son because sin requires justice & judgement**. Without Him, we would all go to hell (this is our deserved judgement), but Jesus died in our place and took on the punishment for our transgressions — that’s how our sentence is canceled:

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” Colossians 2:13-15

3. Our entire record of millions of sins was annulled when Christ was nailed to the cross. **Jesus paid our debt with His life through His blood** — this is our redemption.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his

blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. **Romans 3:23-26** (NLT)

B. In the future: Jesus' death & resurrection guarantee our complete redemption!

1. Today, our redemption is primarily spiritual — we are able to enter the presence of God and have access to His spirit. Our future redemption will include a rescue from all of the weaknesses and brokenness of our physical bodies. **We will be free from pain and sin, able to be in the presence of God forever.**
2. This is the fullness of our redemption. For now, we experience the reality that we are no longer under God's wrath, but redemption will be complete when our bodies are redeemed.
"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." **Romans 8:29** (NLT)

C. In the present: We are born again.

1. **We don't have to wait until we die, we can walk in this redemption today:**
"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." **1 Peter 1:18-19** (NLT)
"who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." **Titus 2:14**
2. **Because we are redeemed, we can do things we've never done before — "good works."** Through Jesus' death on the cross, we get to enter a "new covenant" — a new way of being in relationship with God:
"And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." **Luke 22:20** — The "new covenant" is not a new concept, it was actually the fulfillment of a prophetic word:
"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ...For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people." **Jeremiah 31:31,33**
3. The blood of Jesus ensures that we will enter a new covenant which consists of writing His law (His ways) on our hearts through the Holy Spirit:
"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." **Ezekiel 36:26-27**
4. This is the new relationship we get to enter into with Him — and it's not about perfection but rather a new level of obedience. We are redeemed to make choices different than the ones our ancestors made!

II. The source of redemption: "the RICHES of His grace" (v.7b)

- A. **Why did God do this? Where does all of this redemption come from?** Paul highlights that all of this redemptive work is done “according to the riches of his grace” and for “the praise of His glorious grace.”

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:4-7

- B. The love of God is expressed in His mercy and grace. It is love that fueled His whole plan to seat us in heavenly places to fully demonstrate the “immeasurable riches of His grace.”

- C. **His grace is so abundant that it is going to take AGES for us to fully experience it.**

“to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” Ephesians 1:6

The source of the blessing of His grace is “the Beloved”, which means it is not fed by us, but rather by the love and fellowship the persons of the Trinity have with each other. God the Father loved the Son sine before the foundation of the world. Within the Trinity there has always been joy and delight, and **out of the overflow of this love, God is rich in grace!** He is never in danger of running out because it is sourced out of His unfailing, unending love.

Reflection questions:

1. **How are you experiencing the three stages of redemption?**
2. **According to what Paul writes, why did God choose to do the work of redemption?**
3. **Why is God’s grace so glorious and worthy of praise?**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Ministry Night - This Thursday at 7PM.** The whole family is welcome (bilingual - primarily spanish)
2. **Beach Baptisms on August 10th at 10 AM.** (Baptism class on August 7th at 6 PM). Email hello@housesoflight.org for more information!