

## Ephesians 1:7-9 The Benefits of Redemption

By David DeWitt

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight. He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (Ephesians 1:7-9).*

*In Him we have redemption, [apolutrosis]. This is a purchase which sets free, often translated *release*. This is the same word translated *divorce* (NASV) and *put away* (KJV) in Mark 10:2 (*Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife*). The idea is we are *divorced* or *set free* from sin. There are three New Testament words for redemption:*

- First is (*agorazo*) a purchase of the whole world while they are in sin. First Corinthians 6:20, *For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body.*
- Second is (*exagorazo*) a purchase that removes us from the market place of sin. Galatians 3:13, *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us.*
- Third is (*apolutrosis*) to release us or set us free to follow Christ. By far the most common word for redemption and the one used throughout Ephesians.

**1:7 Through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.** Of the major world religions, only Christianity includes a blood sacrifice and *without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness* (Hebrews 9:22). **Trespasses** is a word for sin that means walking in the wrong place.

**According to the riches of His grace.** Grace is selected favor, **1:8 which He lavished on us.** Lavished is the common word for *abundance* here best translated to *make abundant toward us*.

**In all wisdom and insight,** either of these words can be translated *wisdom*. Wisdom connects the dots. Wisdom means everything makes sense. Only God has perfect wisdom. To Him everything makes sense. He can connect all the dots. But the wise man in Proverbs understands what usually happens most of the time, a firm grasp of the obvious. For the prophets and apostles, wisdom included the revelation of God.

The difference between faith and wisdom is faith requires reason and logic but not understanding. I believe in predestination and free will, the unity and trinity of the godhead, and that light is both waves and particles. All scientists believe in things they don't understand. But wisdom includes understanding; the ability to make sense of it all, to comprehend how is all fits together.

**He made known to us the mystery of His will.** Paul will explain *mystery* more specifically in chapter 3. Paul's use of a "mystery" is a previously unknown revelation, something the Old Testament prophets were unaware of, which was revealed to the apostles and prophets of the New Testament. This is the **purpose** of the letter.

**1:9 According to His kind intention.** The word for *kind intention* is (*eudokia*) is better translated *good pleasure* (KJV). Literally, "good thoughts." God does everything according to His own good pleasure, because His pleasure is good. It would be good to do everything according to your pleasure if your pleasure was good. Take the person who says, "God would want me to be happy." Yeah, if you define happy like He does. Pleasure is good if, and only if, it is according to His good pleasure. **Which He purposed in Him,** better *Himself* (KJV).

### APPLICATION

- Even though we have a prepared destiny, it is just as true that we are sinners, totally dependent on the redemptive price paid by Christ. So we should understand that our sin is real, and without redemption in Christ, our sin will keep us from God and the other dimension we call heaven (vv. 7-8).
- It was also the good pleasure of God to reveal to us the future dispensation of the fullness of time (the Millennial Kingdom) on earth. We should, then, see our lives as a preparation for possible service in that final kingdom on earth (vv. 9-10).