

September 17, 2006

**“Redemption in Christ,” *Ephesians 1:1-14*, page 1142**

**Introduction:**

1. Today we will begin a message series on the book of Ephesians.
2. We will consider the first fourteen verses of chapter one.
3. When considering a scriptural passage, I always look for the key words.
4. In our message today, there are three key words I would like to consider:
  - A. Predestination
  - B. Redemption
  - C. Grace

**I. Predestination**

- A. Definition: “The doctrine that God has foreordained all things, especially salvation of certain souls.”
- B. Some words in the Bible are difficult to understand and seem to cause a lot of confusion to believers.
- C. This appears to be one of those words.
- D. We must be careful not to take one word out of context and then establish a theological belief on that word.
- E. God is a God of details.
  1. It is not surprising to me that God had a specific plan for redemption even before the creation.
  2. Predestination = pre-planning.
  3. Note *Ephesians 1:4*, page 1142.
  4. *I Peter 1:19-20*: “...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you....”
  5. *Revelation 5:12*: “saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!’”
  6. *Ephesians 1:13*, page 1142.
- F. God knew He needed a chosen nation = Israel to complete His plan of redemption of the fallen human race.
- G. God also knew that every individual was born in sin and had a need to be redeemed. *Romans 5:12*: “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”
- H. God’s plan includes possible redemption for everyone.
  1. *II Peter 3:9*: “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
  2. *John 3:16*, page 1034.
  3. *Matthew 11:28*, page 942.
  4. *Revelation 3:20*, page 1205.

- I. I believe these and many other scriptures include everyone who desires can be saved and have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- J. Leave the details to God. He has everything under control!

**II. “In Him we have redemption through His blood.”**

- A. Jesus has become the sacrifice for us.
- B. Jesus is the only way to redemption. *John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”*
- C. The Bible makes it very clear how to be redeemed. *Romans 10:8-13*, page 1107.
- D. *Hebrews 9:22-28*, page 1176, makes it clear that our forgiveness is available to us because of the shed blood of Jesus.
- E. Jesus makes it very clear that we are to be His witnesses, *Matthew 28:19-20*, page 967.
  - 1. No need for us to decide which person.
  - 2. “Go...make disciples...all nations.”

**III. Grace is amazing.**

- A. The apostle Paul refers to grace three times in our scripture lesson for today:
  - 1. “Grace to you,” verse 2.
  - 2. “Glory of His grace,” verse 6.
  - 3. “Riches of His grace,” verse 7.
- B. Grace
  - 1. Mercy
  - 2. Clemency
  - 3. Favor
  - 4. Reprieve
- C. Every day we enjoy the grace of God extended to us.
- D. We are the blessed ones to experience a personal relationship with God through the redemption provided by Jesus Christ’ death on the cross.
- E. The songwriter has said it well, “Amazing Grace.”

**Conclusion:**

- 1. Predestination, redemption, and grace: Do we totally understand and comprehend these terms?
- 2. We do not need to fully understand to experience:
  - A. God’s exciting plan for our lives.
  - B. The reality of sins forgiven.
  - C. The unmerited favor of God.
  - D. The fellowship that we enjoy as a part of God’s family.
- 3. Do not major on things that only God has the authority to understand and fulfill – predestination.
- 4. Major/focus on what we do understand and should respond to:
  - A. Redemption.
  - B. Grace.