

**“God’s Grace in the Believer’s Life”**

**Part 3**

**Ephesians 1:4-7**

**Introduction:** Today as we return again to Ephesians chapter 1, we are going to pick up where we stopped last week in our study. Here in Ephesians 1 we are looking at who we are in Christ. Paul is writing to a church of mostly Gentiles and he needs to get them grounded so here in this first chapter he is showing them who they are IN CHRI ST. He is pointing to the riches which they have in Jesus Christ. Now let me show you why he is doing this.

**Ephesians 4:1**

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*

Paul wants them to know who they are, and it is his desire that their lifestyle in the world would match their position in Christ. So, as we work our way through this first chapter, we are seeing who we are in Christ. Now last week I told you that the most difficult part of this study is separating FEELI NGS from FACTS. In this chapter we see the facts about who we are in Christ, but we do not always feel as the facts state. Let me show you what we have learned so far concerning who we are IN CHRI ST:

**I. Blessings for the Believer**

**Part 3**

**A. Blessed with all spiritual blessings.**

**Notice Ephesians 1:3**

**B. Made Holy and Blameless**

**Notice Ephesians 1:4**

**1 Corinthians 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup>*That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;*

<sup>6</sup>*Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:*

<sup>7</sup>*So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

<sup>8</sup>*Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**C. We are placed into God’s royal family.**

**Notice Ephesians 1:5**

The word “adoption” here means “Son Placed”. We were born again into the family of God.

**1 Peter 1:23**

*<sup>23</sup> Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

Then we are placed into the family of God as mature sons. Last week we looked a beautiful picture of this in the life of Mephibosheth. He was the son of Jonathan and he was under a death sentence. Now because of a covenant between David and Jonathan he was permitted to live, and he was placed into the family of David as one of David’s sons.

**2 Samuel 9:11b**

*As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.*

Mephibosheth is a picture of all the human race. We were crippled in the fall which happened in the Garden of Eden and because we are sinners, we were under a death sentence.

**Romans 6:23a**

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death;*

But there was a covenant made 2000 years ago between God the Father and His Son and God stated that all who would receive Jesus Christ as Savior would be forgiven of their sin, born again, and placed as sons into the family of God. This now brings us to where we are today.

**D. We have been Redeemed.**

**Notice Ephesians 1:7**

The word “redemption” or “redeem” means “to buy with a price”. But there is much more to consider here. In the Roman Empire slavery was very common. It is believed that there were more than 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire. They were bought and sold every day as merchandise. If you so desired you could go to the market place where slaves were bought and sold and if you noticed a slave you were friends with or maybe just someone who you chose to show grace to, you could buy them when they were placed on the auction block and then you could set them free. You could remove the chains and shackles from their feet and hands and simply say, “I paid the ransom for you now you are free to go and live a new life.” That is the very idea of redemption here in Ephesians 1:7. Now let me paint a picture for you so that we can see what Paul is saying here.

**1. Man is a slave to sin.**

**Romans 6:17**

*<sup>17</sup> But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

**John 8:33-34**

*<sup>33</sup> They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

*<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

**Hebrews 2:15**

*<sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Before we were saved, we were slaves to sin. Let me just prove this by using a few of the Ten Commandments.

**Commandment #1**

**Exodus 20:3**

*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

We have all had other gods in our lives. Other gods are those things which control us and consume our thoughts and time.

**Commandment #2**

**Exodus 20:4**

*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

You may never have carved out an image of wood or stone but in your mind, you have created a god that will accept you regardless of your sin and that makes you guilty of breaking both of these 2 Commandments.

**Commandment #3**

**Exodus 20:7**

*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

Sometime and somewhere you have been guilty of using the Lord's name in vain.

**Commandment #5**

**Exodus 20:12**

*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

We have all disobeyed our parents at one time or another.

**Commandment #6**

**Exodus 20:13**

*Thou shalt not kill.*

You may never have murdered anyone, but Jesus tells us that to hate someone is the same as murder.

**Matthew 5:21-22a**

*<sup>21</sup>Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:*

*<sup>22</sup>But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment:*

**Commandment #7**

**Exodus 20:14**

*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

To lust after someone makes us guilty of adultery.

**Matthew 5:27-28**

*<sup>27</sup>Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:*

*<sup>28</sup>But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

**Commandment #8**

**Exodus 20:15**

*Thou shalt not steal.*

**Commandment #9**

**Exodus 20:16a**

*Thou shalt not bear false witness...*

There is not a person here that has not told multiple lies.

**Commandment #10**

**Exodus 20:17a**

*Thou shalt not covet...*

These Commandments are proof that man is a slave to sin.

**2. Man is unable to get free from the bondage of sin.**

Just as a slave was powerless to get free from the shackles and chains of his master so we were unable, IN OUR OWN POWER, to get free from sin. People may break certain habits in their life, but it is impossible to get free from the bondage of sin. It is something that you do every single day. If not in deed, then in thought. So, man is a slave to sin and God says that all sin must be paid for.

**Romans 6:23a**

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death;*

God requires that every sin ever committed must be paid for. The word "DEATH" means "separation". If you die in your sins, you will be forever separated from God in the Lake of Fire.

**Revelation 20:12-15**

*<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*<sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*<sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

But God has provided a way to escape the Second Death. He sent His Son Jesus Christ into this world to REDEEM us. You see when Jesus Christ died on the cross His blood was the payment for our sin.

**Notice Ephesians 1:7**

We have been redeemed by His blood. He paid the price that God required and when we accept Him as our Savior His blood is applied to our account and we are then free from the penalty and the power of sin.

***Colossians 1:13-14***

*<sup>13</sup> Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

*<sup>14</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

***Notice Ephesians 1:7 again.***

There are two legal terms in this verse.

1. Redemption – This word gives the picture of us standing before God as slaves to sin and then receiving our freedom.
2. Forgiveness – This word has the idea of being in debt. All of mankind has a sin debt that God requires payment for. Forgiveness then speaks of the cancellation of debt.

***Colossians 2:13-14***

*<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

*<sup>14</sup> Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

When a prisoner was locked in prison there was attached to his door a list of offences which he was guilty of. Here in Colossians we see that Jesus took our list of offences and nailed it to His cross. What does this mean? This means that as He hung on the cross, He was dying not for His offences but for our offences. He was our Substitute and he died for our sin debt and with His blood we have been redeemed. **We have been bought with a price and now we are free from sin's power and penalty.**

***Isaiah 53:4-6***

*<sup>4</sup> Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

*<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Jesus Christ has paid the price of redemption but not with money. He gave the very best He had to set us free. He gave His life!

**1 Peter 1:18-19**

*<sup>18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

*<sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Notice the song which we John heard the 24 elders singing in heaven.

**Revelation 5:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

*<sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

*<sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

**Conclusion:**

If you have not repented of your sin and accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are still living under a sin debt and you are still a slave to sin. Jesus wants to set you free and He wants to take away your sin debt. But you must make a choice.

**Matthew 7:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

*<sup>14</sup> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*