"REASONS TO BLESS GOD!"

(Part II)
Ephesians 1:7-12
2/5/2014

INTRODUCTION:

*God is worthy of our praise (blessing) because of what He has done for us in Christ.

What has God done for every Christian?
I. He BLESSED Us (v. 3)
II. He CHOSE Us (v. 4)
III. He ADOPTED Us (v. 5-6)

IV. He REDEEMED Us (v. 7)

A. The Source of our Redemption - "In whom" = in Christ

B. The Means of our Redemption - "Through His blood"

C. The Meaning of our Redemption - "Forgiveness of sins"

D. The Measure of our Redemption - "According to the riches of His grace"

V. He ENLIGHTENED Us (v. 8-9)

A. God's Mystery (v. 9a) - "Christ in you" (Col. 1:27)

B. God's Motive (v. 9b) - "His good pleasure"

VI. He UNITED Us (v. 10)

A. The Timing of our United Gathering - "Fullness of times"

B. The Participants in our United Gathering - "All. . . in heaven and on earth"

VII. He INHERITED Us (v. 11-12)

A. The Plan of our Inheritance (v. 11a) - "Predestinated"

B. The Purpose of our Inheritance (v. 11b-12)

1. God's will (v. 11b)

2. God's glory (v. 12)

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"Redeemed" - Fanny Crosby's testimony about redemption (P. 15)

"Redemption" (apolutrosis) = to release or free someone by paying a price (this word emphasizes the freedom, actual deliverance, or liberty that is received - cp. Vine, p. 263).

Redemption is forever (Heb. 9:12 - "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

A. The Source of our Redemption - "In whom" = in Christ

"In whom" = in the beloved (v. 6) - in Christ (via our union with Christ, we have redemption)

"We have" - redemption is a present reality. We already have been redeemed.

B. The Means of our Redemption - "Through His blood"

"Through His blood" - by means of Christ's shed blood. The price of redemption was the blood of Jesus

I Pet. 1:18 - "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"

Acts 20:28 - "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Col. 1:14 - "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"

Heb. 9:12 - "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Rev. 5:9 - "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"

"His blood" - refers to that one time act of Christ whereby He shed (Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22) His literal, human blood (Heb. 2:14) on Calvary's cross (Col. 1:20).

C. The Meaning of our Redemption - "Forgiveness of sins"

"The forgiveness of sins" - this phrase is in apposition to the phrase "redemption through His blood." Redemption and forgiveness are conveying synonymous ideas.

("Redemption . . . [even] the forgiveness of sins")

"Forgiveness" = release, pardon, cancellation of an obligation, punishment, or guilt.

"Sins" (paraptoma) - to overstep a boundary, transgression

D. The Measure of our Redemption - "According to the riches of His grace"

"Riches" - God's grace imparts spiritual riches (EX: the high price to bail some people out of jail)

"Grace" - God's Riches At Christ's Expense

V. He ENLIGHTENED Us (v. 8-9)

"Wherein" - of which grace

"He hath abounded toward us" - God did not just parcel out grace; but He profusely poured out more than enough. The idea of the word "abound" = to give so much that it overflows; to have left=overs. We are extremely rich in grace.

God's amazing grace has provided for us spiritual wisdom and spiritual insight (prudence). Those whom God saves, He illuminates.

A. God's Mystery (v. 9a) - "Christ in you" (Col. 1:27)

The "wisdom and prudence" (insight) that we have is because of God, in His grace, opening our eyes to the secret mystery of His will. What is that mystery?

"Christ in you" (SEE: Col. 1:25 - 27)

B. God's Motive (v. 9b) - "His good pleasure"

God saved us and enlightened us for "his good pleasure."

VI. He UNITED Us (v. 10)

A. The Timing of our United Gathering - "Fullness of times"

"That" = so that, in order that

"The dispensation of the fullness of times" - God's end-time plan
*The Rapture and Resurrection

B. The Participants in our United Gathering - "All. . . in heaven and on earth"

"Gather together" - SEE: Col. 1:20-21

"In one all things in Christ" -

In one" = in one unity; there will be one flock and one shepherd

"All things" - all people (O.T. and N.T. saints; those who have died ("in Heaven") and those who are still living when he returns ("On earth")

VII. He INHERITED Us (v. 11-12)

"We have obtained an inheritance" - Two possible ideas:

--We have been made heirs ("Joint heirs" - Rom. 8)

--We have been made an inheritance

A. The Plan of our Inheritance (v. 11a) - "Predestinated"

"Predestinated" - our future inheritance has been determined before hand by God. It is guaranteed.

B. The Purpose of our Inheritance (v. 11b-12)

"Purpose" - plan, resolution, decision

1. God's will (v. 11b)

   No one plans for God; He plans for Himself.

   He sovereignly controls all things ("worketh all things") so that they happen according to the decision of His desire.

2. God's glory (v. 12)

   The goal of our salvation is to glorify God.

   To show off His glory

   To give credit where credit is due.