

Chosen Before the World Began

August 28, 2022

Ephesians 1:1-14

God's Sovereignty and Man's Free Will - We looked at this a few weeks ago and will look at it again soon on Wednesday night as we enter Romans 9. The focus this morning will be on what the Lord has done for us. I will mention these few verses in light of the verses that we read in Ephesians.

God's sovereignty and man's choice are not at odds.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3-4

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 Peter 3:9

Four words I want to look at this morning that are in our text:

Redeemed

In the original language the word "deliverance" (*sōtēria*) is used. It means to save or to rescue and/or to purchase and set free by paying a price.

I have been delivered, I am being delivered, I will be delivered.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Peter 1:17-19

We went from sinful slaves to saintly sons and daughters.

No other way to be redeemed except by the blood.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11

Forgiven

To bear away, to carry away.

(af'-es-is) Definition: dismissal, release, pardon.

Usage: a sending away, a letting go, a release, pardon, complete forgiveness.

Leviticus 16

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Hebrews 9:22

As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:12

I read years ago about a father who was doing some serious work, and his little boy kept pestering him. The father felt that he'd get rid of the child for a while; and so, he gave him a jigsaw puzzle to work. He said, "Here, Son. Here's a map of the world. Put it together." He knew the little fellow didn't know much about geography. He wasn't that old. He thought he'd be a long time. But, after a while, he came back, and he had the puzzle done. It didn't take very long. He did the jigsaw puzzle in jig time. And, they said, "How did you?"—he said—"How did you do it?"

“Well,” he said, “Daddy, there’s a puzzle. There’s a picture on both sides.” He said, “On the other side there’s a picture of a man.” He said, “When I got the man’s right, the world was right.” And, you know, that’s the way it’s going to be, dear friend, when Jesus is in His rightful place. He’s not in His rightful place right now, and everything else is out of whack. But, when Jesus is enthroned, when the Prince of peace rules from Jerusalem, when the Lord reigns from Zion, there’s going to be harmony in this world. So, we are enlightened. We know what’s going to happen. We know what the world is headed for. I feel sorry for other people who do not know.¹

Inherited

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

We have inherited God’s blessings, love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, peace, joy, patience, etc.

Sealed

It’s one thing to be saved, another to grow in the knowledge and grace of God.

I never will forget hearing Miss Bertha Smith, retired missionary from China. Boy, Miss Bertha, she’s a warrior for Jesus, if you ever saw one. She was talking in our church down in Florida, and she was talking about how we are. You know, the Bible says “our lives are hid with God in Christ,” (Colossians 3:3) you know. And so she had a box—a shoebox about that big—and on the outside she had “God.” And so she opened that shoebox up, and on the inside of that was another little box, smaller. She had written on that “Jesus,” for the Bible says, “Christ is in God, and we’re in Christ.” (John 17:23) And so now, there’s God, and then there’s Jesus in God. And then, she opened that box, and inside of Jesus was one that said “Me.” There I am in Jesus. And I thought, “Boy, that’s glorious! How is the devil ever going to get to me if he’s got to tear up that first box and then that second box to get to me?”²

Somebody asked a little boy if he had found Jesus yet, and the little boy was quite a theologian. He said, “Found Jesus? I didn’t know He was lost.” He said, “I was lost, and He found me.” And, aren’t you so glad that He has? Aren’t you so glad that God chose us and God set His affection on us? We sing that song:

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood (Robert Robinson).³

Prayer Focus:

- Have I been redeemed?
- Have I been forgiven and living in it?
- Will I thank God for the inheritance He has given?
- Will I thank God for sealing me?

¹ Rogers, A. (2017). [From Grace to Glory](#). In *Adrian Rogers Sermon Archive* (Eph 1:3–14). Signal Hill, CA: Rogers Family Trust.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.