

Theme: Redemption and forgiveness of sins is found only in the death of Christ, because of the grace of God.

I. Intro – Jesus & Am Ex & MC

- A. American Express – membership has its benefits
- B. Master Card – priceless!
- C. “Membership” in Christ is priceless!

II. Redemption Through His Blood

- A. The concept of redemption
 - 1. Mainly used by Paul in NT – 7 of 10
 - 2. Releasing, purchasing back, payment
 - 3. Often used of buying back slaves/POW’s
 - 4. Example: Mumbai girls – they are redeemed
 - 5. Christ redeems us from Satan who steals, kills, etc.
- B. Redemption is present and future
 - 1. Future – Romans 8:23
 - 2. Present – Col 1:14; here (present tense)
 - 3. We are redeemed from sin NOW!!
- C. Redemption is through His blood
 - 1. Blood refers to death

- a. Leviticus 17:11 – Life is in the blood
 - b. Old Testament sacrificial system
 - c. Heb 9:22 – no forgiveness apart from blood
- 2. It is Christ’s death that redeemed us
 - 3. We can not be forgiven by good works!
 - 4. Story of 2 angels on shoulders – won’t work
 - 5. Christ’s blood can cleanse from sin!

III. Forgiveness of Sins

- A. ἀφεσις – let go, setting free, acquittal; forgiveness
 - 1. Our sins are released and sent away
 - 2. God no longer holds our sins against us!
- B. Christ’s death – propitiation and expiation
 - 1. He bore the wrath of God
 - 2. He bore our sins and took them away
 - 3. The two goats (Leviticus 16:5-22)
 - 4. Christ is our Sacrifice & Scapegoat!!
 - 5. We are FREE!!!

IV. Riches of His Grace

- A. All of this on account of God's grace
 - 1. God did not have to do this
 - 2. Christ did not have to bear our sin
 - 3. Grace – God's unmerited favor
 - 4. Nothing we can do to earn – free grace!
- B. It is the riches of God's grace
 - 1. God is **rich** in grace (and many things!)
 - 2. He lavishes this rich grace on us!
 - 3. Grace greater than all my sin!

- C. All of this is true only in Christ
 - 1. In Him – redemption – free from sin
 - 2. In Him – forgiveness – sin sent away
 - 3. In Him – riches of grace for every need

Redemption in Christ

Ephesians 1:7
August 27, 2000

V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. The importance of “in Whom”
 - 1. All of this is only true “in Christ”
 - 2. This is pivotal to understand this passage
 - 3. In Him – Yes to every promise (2 Cor 1:20)
- B. The opposite is true outside of Christ
 - 1. No redemption – we are slaves to sin
 - 2. No forgiveness – our sins are on us
 - 3. No riches of grace – poverty of our sin

23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:23

and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:24

in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:14

11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Leviticus 17:11

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, & without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:22

Leviticus 16:5,15-17,20-22

5 From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering...

15 "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. 16 In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been...

20 "When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. 21 He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. 22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.