

# Candlelight Christian Fellowship

Ephesians 1:7-12

*Ephesians 1:7–12 (NKJV)*

*“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

*In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”*

The Bible makes it exceedingly clear that the only redemption we have from sin and death is to be found in Jesus Christ our Lord. Isaiah recorded, *“...there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”* Isaiah 45:21b–22 (NKJV) In the Book of Acts we read, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”* Acts 4:12 (NKJV)

*“Redemption”* (means) to be “bought out.” The term was used specifically in reference to the purchase of a slave’s freedom. As sinful man we are born as slaves to sin and death. Therefore, Jesus purchased us from the slavery and bondage we were powerless to escape. He made us His own *“purchased possession.”* (Read Acts 20:28, Ephesians 1:14, Colossians 1:13-14)

Jesus paid the price for our sins and purchased us for Himself by laying down His own life in exchange for ours. He shed His own blood on the cross at Calvary in order to redeem us.

In the Old Covenant sacrificial system, the sins of mankind were atoned for by the bloodshed of an animal. The blood being shed was necessary in order that the animal would die – as life is in the blood. (See Leviticus 17:11) This system was a picture of Christ’s sacrifice and shows us the deeply painful and costly consequences of sin. Jesus shed His blood (gave His life) in order to offer us life in exchange for death, and forgiveness in exchange for the consequences we would have suffered without Him. What a love (He) has for us!

The blood that was shed in the Old Covenant could never “take away” sin and was therefore repeated day by day and year by year until Christ came. It was symbolic and used to point men and women to Jesus’ once-for-all sacrificial death. (Read Hebrews 10:1-14)

The redemption we enjoy and the forgiveness of sins we are given are, *“according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence.* (vss. 7b-8) God planned for our redemption before the foundation of the world according to the *“riches of His grace”*, not as an inconvenience and not as the result of any meritorious work in us. We as undeserving sinners were so

loved that God sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for us – in our place – “according to His good pleasure.” (vs. 9) We are not an inconvenience to God.

God wants every believer to know that we are loved and that it was His plan to save us. Therefore, He has “made known to us the mystery of His will, which He purposed in Himself.” (vs. 9)

There is a day coming when God will gather together every believer from all the ages into one happy family in the Lord. Paul reminds the believers of this fact. He says, “that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.” (vs. 10) This fact is undisputed by most good theologians. However, the methods and plan God has for these “ages” is still debated. Fundamentally there are two groups embracing two different models. These groups are “Covenantal” and “Dispensational.” We approach the Scriptures from a “Dispensational” perspective.

Biblical Dispensationalism is a study of the Scriptures through the lens of God’s administrative work. In each of the color-coded and numbered eras (see model below), God dealt with men using a differing administrative method. For example, in the Old Covenant God was primarily using Israel as His chosen people to make Himself known to the whole world. He made a Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that would forever remain. During the Old Covenant, God introduced the Law of Moses as a tutor for the Jewish people. It was designed to point God’s chosen people to the then coming Messiah. The Law was insufficient to provide salvation and effectively condemned all men and women to death.

When Jesus came to this earth (during the Old Covenant Dispensation), He fulfilled the law and died as the one and only sacrificial lamb Who could take away the sins of the whole world.

After Jesus’ physical resurrection from the dead and beginning on the Day of Pentecost a new period of history began. It is a different form of administration. This period of history is known as the “Church Age.” During the Church Age God is using the Church to make Himself known to the world. This fact does not suggest that He has replaced Israel (which many Covenantalists suggest). He has not! In fact, God has another future “Dispensation” known as the “Millennial Reign” where He will ultimately fulfill all His promises to Israel and restore her to her greatest glory.

A careful understanding of the Biblical Dispensational study will remove many false interpretations of the Scripture and save the Bible student untold confusion.



*“The dispensation of the fullness of the times”* refers to the “New Heaven and New Earth.” This is the time when God will *“gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.”* (vs. 10) Every believer from all the ages will be gathered together – in one – in Jesus – forever. We will forever be with the Lord and will enjoy all that He planned for us from before the foundation of the world.

This is the inheritance Paul refers to in verses 11-12. He said, *“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”*

We are predestined to this inheritance according to the purposes and plan of God.

### **A Moment of Review!**

If we take the time to review the passage again and note the personal pronouns, we will see that the salvation we enjoy is all of God. It was His blood that redeemed us –providing forgiveness of sins, His grace that abounded to us, His desire to make know the salvation He provides, and His purpose to save. It was His good pleasure to save us, to provide us an inheritance, and to gather us together with every believer from all the ages – into one happy family in Him! Awesome!

*“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*

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Praise the Lord for His glorious grace!

### **Questions:**

True or False: People can be saved by believing in any “God” as long as they believe with all their hearts.

True or False: There is only one true God and all other so-called gods are the fabrications of man and/or Satan.

True or False: As sinful man, we are born as slaves to sin and death. Therefore, Jesus purchased us from the slavery and bondage we were powerless to escape. Jesus paid the price for our sins and purchased us for Himself by laying down His own life in exchange for ours.

True or False: The blood that was shed in the Old Covenant sacrificial system did not and could not take away sin.

True or False: It was God's good pleasure to save us and wash us completely clean by the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ His Son.

True or False: Predestination means that we cannot choose to serve the Lord and that He basically forces us to be saved.

True or False: Predestination suggests that God has chosen a final destination that every believer will enjoy.

Notes: