

# METAMORPHOSIS

YOUR LIFE | YOUR COMMUNITY | YOUR WORLD

## Metamorphosis

### A study through Ephesians

*Meta-mor-pho-sis – a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means*

### **Week 3 – Purchased by Christ (Ephesians 1:7-10)**

Eph 1: 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, with all wisdom and understanding 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

#### **1. What does it mean to be ‘redeemed’? (v7)**

Eph 1: 7 In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace 8 which he lavished upon us, with all wisdom and understanding

#### **Four key words describe what happened on the cross:**

**Propitiation:** (Rom 3:24) God’s wrath against sin was turned away

**Justification:** (Rom 5:18) We are made righteous (right) with God. It’s ‘just as if we had never sinned’

**Reconciliation:** (Eph 2:13-19) All relational barriers between God and us **and** between us and others have been removed

**Redemption:** 'to buy back' or 'deliverance by the payment of a price'

**Slave market:** A slave could be 'bought' out of slavery by a well-wisher or family member

**OT sacrificial system:** Firstborn animal belonged to God but could be 'redeemed' (bought back) by the owner.

**We have been redeemed "in Him" (ie in Jesus) and "by his blood"**  
**Meaning: Jesus paid the price for us with his own life**

**Why do we need redeeming/buying back?**

**Authority over the earth** – was given to mankind

**Gen 1:28-31** 'be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over it' &

**Psa. 115:16** The heavens are the LORD's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.

**The Fall** – Adam & Eve's initial rebellion (Genesis 3:14 – 19)

(v15) caused a war between mankind and 'spiritual hosts of wickedness'

(v15b) vulnerability to spiritual attack

(v16) breakdown in relationships (child/parent, men/women)

(v17) chaos in nature 'cursed is the ground'

(v17) difficulty in 'work' = poverty

(v17 & 18) pain & death

**Rom. 5:12** Therefore, just as **sin** came into the world through one man, and **death** through **sin**, and so **death** spread to all men **because all sinned**

**What have we been redeemed from?**

Moral bondage (our sin) – Eph 1:7

Curse of the law – Gal 3:13

Empty life handed down to us by our forefathers – 1 Peter 1:18

From all wickedness (ALL the effects of the fall) – Titus 2:14

## Why can't God just forgive us?

Notice it's 'according to the riches of his grace' & 'lavished on us'. God is not reluctant – so what's the problem?

*"The good God will forgive me, that's His job"*

*"We forgive personal injuries as private individuals. God is not a private individual, nor is sin just personal injury. God is the maker and keeper of the law that governs order in the universe, and sin is rebellion against Him. If anyone imagines that God can simply forgive us as we forgive others they have not yet considered the seriousness of sin or the majesty and holiness of God" John Stott*

## What's the implication of redemption?

**a. The realisation of your preciousness & value** – he paid a great price for you.

**b. The security of belonging** – you now belong to God himself

**c. A motivation for holiness** - you are not your own. You have been bought for a price and are now a 'temple' of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:18)

*'if the fact that you are precious and secure and now a habitation of God himself does not put a smile on your face I don't know what will'*

**d. "We have redemption..with all wisdom and understanding" (v8)**

I'd always thought that meant 'God did it wisely'

Best translation: "we have redemption WITH (ie AND) all wisdom and understanding"

Ties up with John 14:26 'he will teach you all things' and Col 1:9 'you will be filled with the knowledge of his will with all wisdom & understanding'

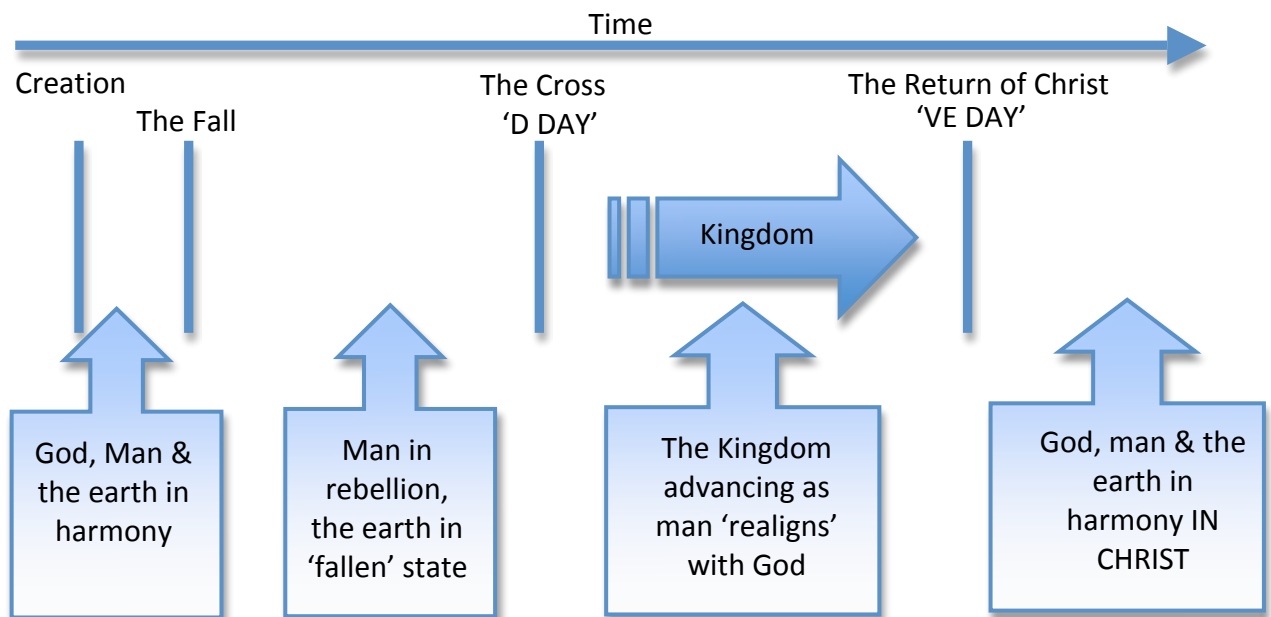
**In every situation God has provided the wisdom and understanding necessary to apply redemption**

## 2. Revealing God's plan – the uniting of all things 'in Christ'

Eph 1: 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**This is not** teaching universalism – 'all things' does not mean every person whether responsive to the gospel or not. Elsewhere Paul declares that those outside of Christ are 'alienated from God', have 'hard hearts', are 'sons of disobedience', that they are 'children of wrath' and that 'the wrath of God will come upon them on the last day' (Eph 4:17-19 and 5:6)

**It is saying** that the work that was begun on the cross will be consummated when everything, the whole universe and every one who has been redeemed, are brought into harmony with God in Christ.



"We were born to rule – rule over creation, over darkness – to plunder hell and establish the rule of Jesus wherever we go by preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. In the original purposes of God, mankind ruled over creation. Now that sin has entered the world, creation has been infected by darkness, namely: disease, sickness, afflicting spirits, poverty, natural disasters, demonic influence etc. Our rule is now focused on exposing and undoing the works of the devil.... If I truly receive power from an encounter with the God of power, I am equipped to give it away. The invasion of God into impossible situations comes through a people who have received power from on high and learn to release it into the circumstances of life" Bill Johnson

**What must I do to live a life where I am continually creating opportunities for miracles to take place?**