

SINGLE ALLIANCE

LIGHT FROM EPHESIANS- THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

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I. Introduction

A. We are continuing in our series called, "**Light from Ephesians**". We are looking at the blessings of grace which God has given us and seeing how they equip us to live a God honoring life.

B. This series is about the living in the balance of God's grace and our responsibility as Christians. Grace is God's "**ability**" and our responsibility is our "**response to His ability**". God has given us grace-"ability" but He is asking for our "response to that ability" in our daily lives. Our response to His ability will lead to a God honoring life.

B. Last week we saw that God had planned for us to be His children. The plan of redemption is "planned parenthood". The fact we are born of God equips us to live as children of light.

C. This week we want to look at the next blessing of His grace and how it equips us to please God in our daily life.

D. [**Ephesians 1:7-8**]- In Him we have redemption through his blood , the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; which [*grace*] he caused to abound to us in all wisdom and understanding [*insight*].

II. Ephesians 1:7-8-The grace of forgiveness- From God's side

A. Redemption and forgiveness are **IN HIM [Christ]**. There is no redemption or forgiveness that is not centered in Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is only found "in Him". Those who do not accept Jesus Christ cannot be forgiven. God has chosen the forgiveness by found IN HIM.

B. In Him we have redemption

1. have- Gr. **present tense**- ongoing; continual

2. redemption- Gr. **apolutrosis**- apo-off; lutron-pay the ransom price of a slave. The ransom price is paid off and we go free. We were enslaved to sin. The wages of sin is death- Jesus paid that death by shedding his blood- pouring out his life- Life is in the blood. There will never be a time when you as a Christian that the debt of your sins is not paid up to the full.

3. In Christ we are continually free from the slavery of sin and its consequences- sickness, lack, oppression. Jesus set us free so we must choose freedom by believing in what God has done for us! [**Galatians 5:1**]

C. Forgiveness of sins

1. forgiveness- **aphesis**- a sending away; releasing from

2. sins- Gr. **paratoma**- more accurately "transgressions"

3. Col. 2:13- we have been forgiven of **ALL** your transgressions- This is past, present, and future- All your sins were future when Jesus died!
4. This is why if you are Christian and you die you will go straight into heaven. God's wrath has been satisfied by the death of His Son, and your debt of sin has been fully paid.

D. This redemption and salvation was given to you by grace- This means that you did not merit it and you do not dis-merit it by your performance. It is not based upon what you have done or not done, but it is based upon what the Father and Jesus has done. **Grace is a two sided coin- It is not merited, and it is not dis-merited. Many will hold it is not merited, but have trouble believing that is not dis-merited! If you take one side of the coin you must accept the other side!**

1. [Romans 8:32]- God freely offered up His Son for you, how will He not also **FREELY** give you all things. **FREELY** means that all that God has to give comes because of Jesus and is not deserved by what you do, and it is not dis-earned either. It is to be received by faith.
2. It is your choice to receive God's grace by your faith.
3. Many think that this teaching is terribly dangerous. It would be if you were still a sinner by nature! However, God has put a new spirit, which is His nature in you so that you do not want to live in sin and abuse God's grace in your inmost being. If you do, then you need to get saved and receive that new nature!
4. You used to be a pig before you were saved. You were unclean and loved the mud! But once you got saved you became a sheep who is clean and hates the mud! You still have the tendency of a pig in your flesh, but in your inmost being you have the nature of a sheep. You still have an oinker in your flesh but the nature of a sheep at the core of your being naturally desires to follow a shepherd. It is in your new nature to follow your Shepherd Jesus! Jesus leads you to graze in the fields of holiness and purity.
5. God is able to keep His holiness in balance- He will discipline you when you get out of line by His Word. Your own flesh will cause you destruction that will lead you to God. [Gal. 6:8] If you will still not turn around he will lift the cover of His protection the enemy will be allowed to afflict our flesh.

E. [Ephesians 1:8] God's redemptive plan shows **all** of God's wisdom and understanding

1. God's plan of redemption contains **all** of God's wisdom- it is so intricate that only God could have planned it. The devil never saw it coming. It was too high for him to figure it out.
2. The plan of redemption took **all** of God's understanding and knowledge in executing it and bringing it to pass.

3. God gives us both the wisdom and understanding to grasp His plan and walk in it! He does this by giving us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. [**Ephesians 1:18**]

III. Walking in forgiveness- From our side

A. Walking in the forgiveness of God.

1. Sin does not change God. It changes you.
2. Sin hardens your heart and leads you to turn away from God- [**Heb. 3:13**]
3. Sin will cause you to lose your confidence before God and your faith will not be able to receive the grace God has for you. [**1 John 3:21**]
4. Sin hinders God's best in your life. The sowing to the flesh will hinder God's plans for you. But, you can start sowing to the spirit by faith and enjoy God's plans.

B. By acknowledging our sins we can experience the forgiveness that belongs to us in Christ and experience the cleansing of our conscience.

1. Ex. healing- In Christ we are healed, but we experience it by speaking and acting on our faith. We receive what already is ours and what is true of us!
2. We will experience the forgiveness that belongs to us and a clean conscience by acknowledging to God our sins and receiving His forgiveness. Some need to just believe that God has forgiven you and forgive yourself!
3. Our faith will be clear to receive God's grace when we have a clear conscience.

C. Receiving the grace of forgiveness leads us to forgive others

1. [**Ephesians 4:31-32**]- We have been forgiven freely by God for our bitterness towards Him and others. We have been forgiven of our wrongful anger towards God and others. We have been forgiven of the evil things we have done and said to God and others.
2. Being mindful of the fact that we have been forgiven (released from) these sins leads us to freely forgive and release people to God who have sinned against us! **We cannot forgive people's sins, but we can forgive people!** We cannot forgive sin! Only God can forgive sins. [**Mark 2:7**] But we can and should forgive (release) people from having to pay us for their sin. Holding unforgiveness and bitterness is trying to make people pay you for their sin. We can't forgive people's sins against us but we can release these people to God. That is a big difference. Stop holding people captive to pay you for their sins in your heart by bitterness, anger, malice, and evil speaking against them. Let these people go and put them in God's hands

D. Prayer for forgiveness of others