



Our Satisfaction

The Truth About Us

Community Group Discussion | part 3

Ephesians 1:7-10

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **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. [ESV]*

We live in a culture that is never satisfied. We always want something bigger, better, newer, smaller, faster, shinier, and more comfortable. There is always something that will satisfy us a little more. We tend to want the latest and the greatest, and those change daily. It's not that we can't be satisfied, but that what this world offers can never truly satisfy us; it can never bring us true satisfaction! God can accomplish this because HE is Jesus, who alone holds our satisfaction in HIS complete and eternal salvation! HIS salvation satisfies, because it frees us from the slavery to sin, the very sin that creates desires that never seem to be satisfied! Earthly satisfaction comes for a moment, but is never quenched.

What is "redemption?" What does it satisfy? Who does it satisfy? How does it satisfy?

Ephesians 1:7a

During the time this letter was written, the Ephesians would have been very familiar with slavery. Slavery was a huge business in the Roman Empire. They would have had millions of slaves. People could purchase slaves and then set them free. This would be called redeeming slaves. The Hebrews had slavery in their history as well, as they knew their ancestors had been freed from slavery in Egypt. God had redeemed them by delivering them from the bondage and chains of literal slavery in Egypt.

Paul is teaching that we are ultimately satisfied when Jesus redeems our lives from slavery to our sin! We are set free from slavery to Satan and this world.

Colossians 1:13-14 *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Why do we need forgiveness? What are we forgiven from? Do we live as forgiven people?
Ephesians 1:7b-8

The redemption that satisfied our release from the slavery of sin produces God's limitless forgiveness on our sinful lives! HE lavishes mercy and grace on our lives. HE is an extremely forgiving God! "Forgiveness" means to carry away or take and do away with.

The Day of Atonement, which is explained in Leviticus 16, paints a literal picture of what it means to forgive. On the Day of Atonement, the Hebrew Priest would take two goats. The first goat would be sacrificed and its blood shed on the mercy seat in the temple before God. The Priest would then confess Israel's sins over the second live goat. The live goat would then be taken and released into the wilderness, never to be seen again!

Jesus' death on the cross was the final day of atonement. HIS shed blood satisfied the price to forgive us of our sins, so that when we repent of our sins, HE forgives us once and for all! This forgiveness also makes a way for us to have wisdom, insight, and understanding with God almighty!

What is God's "mystery?" ***Ephesians 1:9***

Mysteries are exciting – they keep us on the edge of our seat, they make us jump, they make us feel scared, and they give us something to do! This verse is not really the kind of mystery that usually comes to our minds. This is just knowledge that God reveals about Himself to us. This revelation satisfies our need to know God! What was once unknown to us, God reveals to us through HIS Son Jesus Christ!

Why is the truth in verse 10 so crucial? ***Ephesians 1:10***

Unity with God is the ultimate, eternal, and literal satisfaction that believers will ever experience! God will unite us with HIM for eternity. HE will unite all things! Jesus will unite with HIS Bride, the Church! We lost unity with God in Genesis 3 when we chose to sin, and hence separated ourselves from God. Then God stepped in – Jesus went to the cross, redeemed us, forgave us, revealed Himself to us, and united us with God! Jesus Christ brought satisfaction to our lives, so we could be satisfied in HIM Alone!

Discussion and reflection:

- 1] What do I run to for satisfaction in this life?
- 2] How do I live-out a satisfied life in Jesus?
- 3] What or who do I rely on to meet my deepest needs?