

“Accepted in the Beloved”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Eph. 1:3-10 - Praise God for His work of salvation!

I. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS REDEMPTION

A. The character of His redemption

1. The ancients would purchase a beloved slave and then grant that slave his or her freedom. The one releasing the slave would give the released one a certificate stating that they had been redeemed and released from slavery.
2. The Greek word is “lutroo,” meaning “to effect the release of a slave by paying the redemption price”
3. Every person born into this world becomes a slave of sin when they reach accountability - Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Ez. 18:4; John 8:34
4. Sin is a cruel master. It enslaves its victims and demands a high price for their release. Death is the price that had to be paid for man’s redemption. That is exactly the price Jesus paid when He went to the cross to liberate us from our sins. Jesus gave Himself, the innocent for the guilty, that the guilty might go free.
5. Gal. 1:3-4, 3:13, 5:1; Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 5:9
6. Redeemed for a purpose - Gal. 4:5; 1Peter 1:18-19; 1Cor. 6:19-20

B. The cost of His redemption

1. At no cost to us - Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55:1
2. The entire price was paid by Deity - 2Cor. 5:21; 1John 4:10

C. The cause of His redemption: God’s grace - Rom. 5:20; Heb. 7:25

II. PRAISE GOD FOR THE RESULTS

A. The redeemed have been released

1. When the Lord forgives, He also forgets
2. Psalm 103:12; Isa. 38:17, 43:25; Jer. 50:20; Mic. 7:19
3. 1John 1:7; John 1:29

B. The redeemed have been reconciled - “made accepted in the beloved”

1. We were not acceptable - Eph. 2:1-3
2. He made us acceptable - Eph. 2:4-6

III. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS REASONS

A. Why does God redeem the lost? God has His reasons and those reasons cause us to stand in awe at the wonder of His redemptive work.

B. The wonder of His grace

1. What is grace? “God’s riches at Christ’s expense.” “The unearned love and favor of God for the undeserving.” “Any movement of God makes toward man.”
2. God, in His grace, set His love upon us when we did not deserve to be loved. God chose us in Jesus when He could have condemned us to

Hell. God reached out to us in love to save us when He had every right and reason to send us to Hell. That is the wonder of God's grace that makes salvation an almost unbelievable wonder

C. The wonder of His glory

1. God's redemptive plan cannot do anything but bring Him glory.
2. Every soul that is saved fulfills God's plan to redeem sinners and it brings Him glory.
3. Every soul that resists and rejects salvation glorifies God because in the Judgment, God is vindicated by overcoming the will of man when He sends the impenitent sinner to Perdition

D. The wonder of His goal: to make our Savior the King of kings

1. Col. 2:10, 1:18; Psalm 72:11; Rev. 19:11-16, 20:10
2. To make us kings with Him - 2Tim. 2:12; Rom. 8:16-17; 1Peter 4:13
3. God takes us, the unacceptable, and makes us more than accepted; He makes us the offspring of Deity - Psalm 113:5-8