

Going Deeper Questions
We've Been Redeemed!

Ephesians 1:7-14

January 17, 2010

1. Hearing the news about other parts of the world moves our hearts (e.g., Haiti). Why do you think we connect with others in their time of struggle? Why are we moved by the hardship of others? How are we moved?
2. Look up the word “redeem” in the dictionary. What have you redeemed in your life? Read Ephesians 1:7-8, according to these verses how are we redeemed?
 - a. What are “trespasses”?
 - b. Jeremy shared a story about sitting in a river with the water running over him to illustrate “lavished on us.” How do you picture God’s grace lavishing on you?
3. What were the two reasons God redeemed us under Roman numeral I? How are you doing with those?
 - a. “mystery” in verse 9 simply means ‘a truth once hidden but is now made known.’ This word (“mystery”) shows up 5 more times in Ephesians speaking of different things. What is the mystery that is revealed here (cf. 1:9-10; see also Revelation 21:3)? With that in mind – how should that affect you and me today?
4. A hard concept to get our minds around is God’s predestination and man’s free will and how they go together. After hearing the sermon, are you any farther along in understanding this theological concept? Talk it out and see if you can bring clarity to it.
 - a. Jeremy said, ‘predestination is never said to control the destiny of the unsaved; that they choose the darkness rather than the light (John 3:18-19).’ Read about God’s heart in this (Ezekiel 18:32; 33:11; Matthew 18:13-14; 1 Timothy 2:3-6). Thoughts—Reactions?
5. In Ephesians 1:13-14 we see that our assurance of salvation rests in the pledge of the Holy Spirit. Read John 7:37-39; Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:4-5. Discuss what these verses teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in securing our eternal destiny.
 - a. Some argue that if you are saved and sealed by the Holy Spirit and your assurance rests in that, then people will just go and do whatever they want to do (i.e., they won’t obey and follow the Lord). Choose different people to argue for and against this (have a little friendly debate): Why will this truth not lead to disobedience vs. why this will lead to disobedience. Now, reverse roles/switch sides.
6. Read again how Paul ends verse 12 and verse 14. Do these truths move your heart like that? Why or why not?
 - a. How can we worship Jesus more?