

Get a Life!

Ephesians

Redemption, Forgiveness, And Wisdom

Lesson Four

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Page 2 of 4, Lesson Four

Ephesians

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

Redemption, Forgiveness And Wisdom

Lesson Goal: To show students the fact that God forgives our sins, redeems us, and gives us His wisdom.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7, 8; Colossians 1:13, 14;

Redeemed is a word that is often used in churches. It could be that it is not as well understood as it should be. It describes a most important part of the life in Christ that we are talking about in this series of lessons. Redeemed, or redemption, is about saving someone or freeing someone from a situation that he or she cannot get out of under their own power.* The word means to ransom.

Someone has been kidnapped. They can't free themselves. Someone has to pay the "ransom" to get the kidnapers to set them free. Or, a person is in prison. A fine is owed and the prisoner has no money. Someone must pay the fine (ransom) so that the person can get out of jail.

Another English word that works here is deliverance. When the people of Israel were captives in Egypt, God delivered them from slavery and led them to the safety and freedom of Canaan. When Paul says in Ephesians 1:7 that "in Him we have redemption through His blood," he means that Christians are ransomed, or delivered from the penalty of sin by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross...the shedding of Jesus' blood. We can never do enough good things or come up with the price of deliverance from our sins. Only God could do that, and it was done by the death of His only Son, Jesus.

A word closely associated with redemption is forgiveness. One thing that everyone must deal with is a guilty conscience. The pain caused by guilt varies from person to person. However, all of us know when we do something that is wrong, and even if we have done it a thousand times, we face our own conscience. Some people get sick because of their guilty conscience. Some people just brush it off and go on as if nothing had happened. However, every sin marks us like scars from cuts, scraped knees, or burned fingers. We may cover the scars, or they may eventually seem to go away, but the evidence is always with us. Sin scars us internally. According to the Bible, the last thing sin does to us is death. Romans 6:23 says "the wages of sin is death."

Sonny loved his father. However, Sonny's father was not a very special person like some fathers were. So, Sonny began to tell his friends stories about how brave, how strong, how smart his father was. According to Sonny, he was a war hero. He had physically fought off enemy soldiers with his bare hands. And, according to Sonny, his father had a job that required a super smart person who could out-think everyone else.

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Page 3 of 4, Lesson Four

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Somehow Sonny's dad found out about the lies. One day Sonny's dad went out into the back yard, where Sonny was playing, and told Sonny that he knew about the stories. Sonny was already feeling guilty about telling the lies, and asked his dad to forgive him. Through his tears, he told his dad how much he loved him and how sorry he was for what he had done. His dad was hurt that Sonny seemed ashamed of what he really was, but he also knew that Sonny loved him and wanted others to love him. So, Dad forgave him. Sonny didn't deserve the forgiveness. He had brought pain to his father, and had made it so that his friends could not trust him. However, he was forgiven, and could go on to do better in the future.

That is how God forgives us. Our sin brings pain to God because all sin is against God's will. However, God loves us so much, and His grace is so strong that He forgives us even though we don't deserve it.

The third very important word in the memory verse is wisdom. Actually there are two words that are very closely related: wisdom and understanding. Wisdom has to do with curiosity about things beyond common knowledge. That would include God, life, death, and other most important things. Understanding, as Paul used it here, has to do with solving problems in a practical way...everyday, common problems. Another word for understanding is insight.

So, when Paul says that God has poured out on us wisdom and understanding, he is telling us that if we trust God, if we believe that He will become involved in our lives, if we allow Him to guide our curiosity and our solutions of everyday problems, we will have His wisdom and understanding.

With God's help, we can solve all the problems of life and understand things that are even greater than life. Redemption, Forgiveness and Wisdom are all part of the new life that we get in Christ.

Memory Verse: "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding." Ephesians 1:7, 8

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

Student Worksheet

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Page 4 of 4, Lesson Four

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Memory Verse: “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” Ephesians 1:7, 8

>Redeemed, or redemption, is about _____ someone or freeing someone from a situation that he or she cannot get out of under their own _____.

>When Paul says in Ephesians 1:7 that “in Him we have _____ through His blood,” he means that Christians are ransomed, or _____ from the penalty of sin by the sacrifice of _____ on the cross.

>Every sin marks us like _____ from cuts, scraped knees, or burned fingers.

>The last thing sin does to us is _____. Romans 3:23 says “the _____ of sin is death.”

>Our sin brings pain to God because all sin is _____ God’s will. However, God _____ us so much, and His _____ is so strong that He _____ us even though we don’t deserve it.

>Wisdom has to do with curiosity about things beyond common knowledge like _____, _____, death.

>Understanding has to do with solving _____ in a practical way...everyday, _____ problems.

>With God’s help, we can _____ all the problems of life and + _____ things that are even greater than _____.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.