

Ephesians 1:7-10 THE WORK OF GOD THE SON

The Scriptures tell us that we shouldn't forget to gather together to worship the Lord together, the writer of Hebrews gives a good picture of how the church should get together: **Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for He who promised is faithful. (24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.**

What is the writer of Hebrews is saying? The Day of the Lord is coming when He is bringing His kingdom with him, and in a way, gathering together for church not only prepares us for His soon return, but also gives us, a foretaste of what the kingdom is going to look like.

The fellowship that we share together in unity does not originate in ourselves but originates in God, and when we share in that true fellowship, it makes me realize, man this is what heaven is going to look like. (Illustration: Family Camp looks like heaven to me)

We realize that the fellowship we share, these small foretastes of the kingdom that we experience together, could NEVER be mass produced, or cultivated in any other environment than the assembly of the saints. WHY? Because We GATHER BECAUSE OF ONE CENTRAL REASON, the WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH's EXISTENCE: we gather together to exalt the God of heaven and earth who has saved us from sin through His death on the cross, and our new life in His resurrection: THIS IS THE WORK OF GOD THE SON.

What does it mean when we say the WORK of God the Son? Hopefully we can define it through the text

HIS WORK WAS A WORK OF SUFFERING

we see this in the first phrase of verse 7: **In Him we have redemption through His BLOOD.** Specifically through the shedding of His blood. God's redemption plan demanded that the Son of God suffer. Why? For context remember in **Luke 4:5-8 (ESV): And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.' "**

The devil offers Jesus a kingdom, the whole world, WITHOUT SUFFERING: Jesus knew this was impossible: His Kingdom would come through HIS own suffering.

HIS WORK WAS A WORK OF REDEMPTION

Verse 7 begins with HIM. Paul writes that Christ is the DEFINITIVE person concerning Redemption, central to accomplishing redemption for us, central to offering salvation to the whole world.

This means in contrast that we are NOT the redeemers in this story. WE ARE NOT THE HERO. In the transaction of redemption, we have the redeemer and the redeemed. WE ARE NOT OUR OWN REDEEMERS, WHY?

Because we are incapable of accomplishing the WORK of REDEMPTION.

Psalm 49:7-9 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life (8) for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice (9) that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

In a beautiful way, what Jesus has done on the cross ENTITLES Him to be Redeemer. This identity is directly connected to us: The redeemed, and both are identities that will never change for all eternity.

Redemption is a greater word than simply deliverance, in fact scholars speak of six different words in the Greek for Redemption, but if we were to look for another word that defined all six we would get the word RANSOM.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

So the imagery is threefold: We are in captivity with no means of escape, that Christ alone has the ability to ransom us, and the ransom must be nothing less than the life of Christ Himself.

So the ransom paid is also a transformation, we who were once trespassers, are now forgiven into a new identity: ADOPTION AS SONS through Jesus Christ. (v.5)

Now I love this about the Apostle Paul, because He not only tells us what Christ has saved us from, but also what Christ has saved us TO. You haven't just been redeemed in the past tense, But there is a FUTURE redemption ahead of us!

The Work of Jesus Christ is not simply the forgiveness of sins, then He leaves us to our own devices, but His promised Redemption continues on through not just the redemption of our souls, but of our bodies, and of all creation to an eternal kingdom. HIS WORK IS A KINGDOM WORK

Romans 8:22–23 (ESV) — 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

John Stott: Our release from captivity does not complete our redemption, in fact, more redemption is to come!

By what means? the riches of His grace which He has **LAVISHED** upon us.

Some english translations say that his riches of grace are made to abound to us, but I LOVE THE WORD "LAVISH" Because its a word that we rarely have an experience to connect the word to. When is the last time you encountered something and the only words you could say is you were lavished upon?

It means to be to experience something so rich, so luxurious, that it can't be counted.

Friends the redemption of Jesus Christ, according to His rich grace is not like that, it is not a momentary passing event for you to experience quickly then walk through His gift shop, no Christ actually hands REDEMPTION TO US, and when we truly experience it as Paul would have us to, we realize that its TOO MUCH! Its too luxurious for us to completely comprehend, but both in quality and quantity.

Psalms 130:7 (ESV) — 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

John Waalvord: The cost of Christ's blood is the measure of the wealth of God's unmerited favor to every believer.

The cost is the quality, and His grace lavished upon us is the quantity!

8-10: 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.

Christ's work is not only salvation but also revelation

For all humanity our relationship with God is based on the fact that God has REVEALED HIMSELF TO US. In our sin, we having no capability to come to God on our own standard, God has come to us, and through His Son, has revealed His plan of redemption: This is why again Christ is identified by His Work: HE IS IMMANUEL : GOD WITH US.

What Paul is sharing with us here is that it is God's grace that gives us the wisdom and insight to comprehend the majesty of His redemptive plan! In fact, as verse 5 tells us, its the Father's GOOD PLEASURE to give it to us. In truth, The word mystery used by Paul, doesn't mean a riddle that if we have all the clues we can discover the meaning, but rather it is a secret of God that is impossible to find out outside of His revealing it. IT IS A GIFT.

Do we recognize that in our calling to serving Jesus? That the weight of our ministry is actually the good pleasure of God? Because He sees the fulfillment of his plan: TO UNITE ALL THINGS IN HIM THINGS IN HEAVEN AND THINGS ON THE EARTH.

We stand in each other's presence, when we are engaging in ministry, when we are in our churches, we see that we are drawn together in unity by the headship of Christ Jesus, but our perspective doesn't stop there, we look forward to the day that all creation all things, will be united under the headship of Jesus.

We as the body of Christ are the first fruits of Christ's dominion, the fruits of His WORK, and all things shall be brought under subjection to Him.

Illustration: In Ephesus today there is the ruins of the Trajan fountain: This fountain is considered to be one of the three most magnificent fountains of Ephesus. It had two ornamental pools, one in the front and one at the rear. The upper level pool was surrounded with Corinthian style columns. Water flowed from a pillar on which rested a colossal statue of Emperor Trajan. This pillar was at the very center of the largest ornamental pool. An inscription at the base stated that the world rested at the emperor's feet. This was symbolized by a round stone placed under the foot of the emperor's statue. Today only the pedestal and one of the feet belonging to this statue of Trajan have survived.

Where is Trajan now? The reality is No kingdom, ruler, or dominion is able to accomplish what Christ has all ready accomplished, and friends we are all ready part of a Kingdom that we will one day see in all of its glory, and truly every knee will bow and tongue confess that He is Lord.

With that in mind, let us take COMMUNION Together:
I Corinthians 11