

Please take a moment to quiet yourself before the Lord. Ask Him to forgive you of any sin that is on your heart and to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Now please read Ephesians 1:7-11.

What do we have in Christ according to verse 7?

Forgiveness means a remission of penalty, a release from bondage or imprisonment. Redemption means a releasing by the payment of a ransom, a releasing of a slave, the ransom of a life. Before coming to Christ, we were held captive by Satan; we were slaves to sin. However, Jesus went to the cross and poured out His blood to pay our debt that we may be free to live for Him.

What did Jesus give us along with redemption and forgiveness (verse 8)?

Jesus has given us *wisdom* and *understanding* so we may *understand* what sin is and *know* how to avoid it in the future.

Please read verse 9 again.

What has God made known to us?

The *mystery* God refers to in verse 9 is Jesus' death upon the cross and the filling by the Holy Spirit of those who accept His death as payment for their sins. God has made clear the path to salvation. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

How does God feel about saving and redeeming us from our sins (verse 9)?

It *pleased* the Father to save us from our sins and ransom us from death. The Greek word for *pleased* is *eudokia*. It means pleasure, satisfaction and delight. God was *delighted* to save you and me from our sin.

What two additional gifts has God given us according to verse 10-11?

Part of the meaning of the original word for *inheritance* refers to being *choosen* or *picked* for something. God has chosen you and me! One day, if we have accepted Christ as our Savior, we will be with God in heaven and enjoy a wonderful inheritance with all the saints --not because we deserve it or have earned it, but because He loves us and has chosen us. Think of it ... God has chosen you and me to be with Him in eternity. His is our great reward.

Have a blessed day.

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