

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 1:7-12]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- Accountability: What are the fruits of the spirit?...

Do you think you modeled those well today/this week for your co-workers, for your family? [But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desire of the flesh. – Gal 5:16]

- When you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read our primary text. Sometimes it is good to read the Bible with "fresh eyes." What does verse 7 actually say about Jesus? What conclusions can you draw from this verse if you were reading it purely objectively, like one who is reading it for the first time?

This man Jesus, his blood has power to redeem and forgive people. He can forgive people that have wronged. This power to redeem and forgive works in accordance to or in alignment with some type of abundant, rich grace that he possesses.

2. Verse 7 makes a couple very direct assumptions/statements about those who have been redeemed by Jesus. What are they?

It correctly assumes that we are transgressors, trespassers (violators), sinners. AND it correctly assumes that we have been rescued or liberated. [Note: "we have been," past tense – it is finished]

3. How did God lavish his grace upon us, specifically in all wisdom and insight?

His revelation. In addition to providing His very word, teaching us how to live and love, He took it one step further and came down to us. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He both told us how to live and showed us how to live through the man Jesus Christ. [Reference John 1:1-5]

4. What does this block of text say about God's will/plan? What can we learn about God's foresight from these verses?

Verse 10 essentially says that God had a plan from the beginning of time and it was unite all things to himself, both heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ.

5. How did God make known to us the mystery of his will?

He came down from heaven and made himself know to us – the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ made the mysteries of the Kingdom of God known to man (Col 1:27).

6. Given what we have read in these verses, how do the things of this world mesh with God's will?

God works all things according to the counsel of his will. There is nothing outside of his will or knowledge. According to the Bible, it has been this way for time eternal.

7. What is to gain for those who believe in Christ? For what purpose? What are all these rewards for?

Those who believe receive grace, which provides forgiveness, which provides redemption, which allows us to obtain an inheritance that is sealed by the Holy Spirit. All of this is so that God might be glorified in our lives (v.12, v.14).

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.