

# **Ephesians: Portraits of Authentic Faith**

## **The Vocabulary of Salvation: Redemption – Ephesians 1:7**

### ***Message Discussion Guide***

#### **Scripture & Message Review**

Read Deuteronomy 4:24, Revelation 21:27, Psalm 7:11-12.

- What is God's attitude toward sin?
- How is God's attitude toward sin as it is portrayed in these verses different from how most people perceive his attitude toward sin?
- Why are there differences between how it is revealed in Scripture and how people perceive it? What are some consequences of those differences?

Read John 3:16, Luke 22:42-44, Matthew 27:46, Isaiah 48:13.

- In what ways was it hard for God to make a way for sin to be forgiven?
- Why does it seem so hard for God to forgive sin, yet so easy for him to create the universe? What made the former harder than the latter?
- What should that tell us about how much God loves us?
- How should that change our attitude toward our own persistent sin?

Read Leviticus 17:11, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Galatians 3:13.

- Why do you think God repeatedly points to the shed blood of Christ?

Read Romans 3:26.

- What does it mean that God is "just?" What does that mean he demands?
- What does it mean that God will "justify" the one who has faith in Christ?
- How can you explain the gospel to someone with this statement from Romans 3:26: "God is both just and the justifier?"

#### **Big Questions**

- Ephesians 1:7 says that Jesus redeemed us through his blood, he paid for our forgiveness with his death on the cross. So, who did he pay? Who demanded and received the payment?
- How was Christ's death on the cross the ultimate defeat for Satan?

#### **Bonus Questions**

- Does Satan know of his defeat? If so, when did he know of it? If not, when will he realize and acknowledge it?
- Romans 6:23 says, "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life." Why is the word "wages" plural and the word "gift" singular?

## Scripture for Discussion Questions

- Deuteronomy 4:24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.
- Revelation 21:27 Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those written in the Lamb's book of life.
- Psalms 7:11–12 11 God is a righteous judge and a God who shows his wrath every day. 12 If anyone does not repent, he will sharpen his sword; he has strung his bow and made it ready.
- John 3:16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
- Luke 22:42–44 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." 43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. 44 Being in anguish, he prayed more fervently, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.
- Matthew 27:46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lem· sabachth·ni?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"
- Isaiah 48:13 My own hand founded the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summoned them, they stood up together.
- Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have appointed it to you to make atonement on the altar for your lives, since it is the lifeblood that makes atonement.
- 1 Peter 1:18–19 18 For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb.
- Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.
- Romans 3:26 God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.
- Romans 3:26 God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.
- Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.