

## The Son's Mission

Hey, good morning. I've said this before but it's always a blessing to preach God's Word but there is something special preaching God's Word to my own church family. Some of you we know each other well. And some of you I'm still eager to get to know you. But for those who don't know me, I thought I would kick this sermon off with an illustration to let you know what I do and give you a taste of my personality.

My full time job is managing a call center and for eight years I worked the 3rd shift. When it's lunch time at 1 or 2AM, there's not a lot of options for food. We went to Steak and Shake a lot. Steak and Shake at one point, had what they called a Snack Pack. It included a small burger, a small fry, and a small coke for \$2.99. It's a pretty good deal. One night, a Supervisor and I decided to hit it up, but we needed this to be quick since we were short staffed on leadership. So we said, this is our mission: Go to Steak and Shake, order our Snack Packs, no detours to the gas station, and get back to work in under 20 minutes. That's our mission, it's clear. Once we got to the drive thru, I ordered a snack pack. The person responds with, "Do you want any fries with that?" Now I know fries come with the Snack Pack, So I said, no, I ordered a snack pack. The guy responds, I know, and would you like fries with that? You mean the fries that come with that, yeah I'll take those. He says, there aren't fries that come with the snack pack. And now I can feel myself just getting agitated. He said a Snack Pack is a burger and a drink. I asked, did something change? He said, no, that's always what a Snack Pack has been. Now I can feel myself needing to prove this man wrong. So I begin to argue. So have all other employees at all the other Steak and Shakes in Louisville been getting it wrong for the past 3 years? My co-worker is starting to get embarrassed. He's like, look I'll just buy the fries, don't sweat it. And I'm like no, fries come with a Snack Pack. So I pull around and I ask if there was a manager, he says he is the manager. And so I kindly tell him, look, I've been ordering this for 3 years, I ordered it just last week from here and it has always come with fries. So the guy says, "look, I'll give you the fries and won't charge you." At this point, arrogance took over. You don't have to not charge me because I'm already paying for it with the order of a Snack Pack. He smirks. I get mad. I tell the guy to forget it and drive off. By this point, I have fully aborted the mission. I'm all caught up in the details of a small box of fries. And I drove across town to a second Steak and Shake, but that one was closed due to low staff. So I head to the 3rd one. And now my co-worker thinks I'm a little crazy. And I am. At this point, I feel the need to prove this guy was wrong. My buddy says, let's go back to work. I said, no bro, I'm going to get my snack pack, fries and all. I pull up to the speaker, I order a Snack Pack with a coke and she responds, "Sir, I'm going to give you a large fry instead of snack pack size, is that okay?" That would have been the perfect time for angelic voices to sing. A beam of light to shine down – I'm hitting my friend on the arm...see I told you, I told you. That guy was wrong. Boom. We get back to work and I open my bag to a big thing of cold, nasty soggy fries that I just tossed in the trash. Now that gives you a glimpse of who I can be sometimes, so maybe you don't want to get to know me now. I don't know. But I failed the mission.

When humans set out on a mission, there is always the possibility of failure. We abort missions. Things don't work out and we move to plan B to plan C. The point is, we can really mess up a

mission. But here is what I want to set before you today. Jesus Christ was sent on a mission by God to redeem a people to Himself. The mission was executed with precision. It was planned before God said, "Let there be light." It's always been plan A. He's not jumping from Steak and Shake to Steak and Shake trying to play catch up because we've messed things up down here. He's not making it up as He goes. There is complete harmony in this mission between the triune God. It was planned and accomplished with perfection.

Last week we saw "The Father's Purpose" in the first six verses and this week, the sermon is titled "**The Son's Mission.**" And the **main point** is: **The mission of Jesus was to satisfy the wrath of God and purchase your freedom.**

The three points from this passage are:

- **Jesus Redeems Us**
- **Jesus Has Been Revealed to Us**
- **Jesus Will Reconcile Us**

So let's read Eph. 1:7-10. Page # If you are able, please stand with me to honor the reading of God's word. Ephesians 1:7-10. Church, hear the word of the Lord:

**"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."**

**Church, The Lord has spoken to us. Congregation: Thanks be to God! You may be seated.**

### **Jesus Redeems us**

Paul is in the middle of this one long run on 202 word in the Greek, worship sentence starting in verse 3. And he starts unpacking all the spiritual blessings in Christ. Last week Brad laid a foundation that these blessings flow from God's love and are for anyone who's found in this 2 word phrase. "In Christ." Brad used a helpful analogy from Noah's Ark. Anyone found in the ark was safe from the flood and had provision and protection from God. Those blessings only came to those in the ark. In the same way, these blessings only come to those who are "in Christ." And so verse 7 continues these blessings starting with those 2 words. "In Him." Vs7, : "**In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...**" Redemption is a word that we still use today. We redeem our rewards on our Chick-fil-A app. We redeem coupons at Kroger. Lloyd tells Harry just when I think you couldn't possibly be any dumber, you go and do something like this... and **TOTALLY REDEEM YOURSELF!**" But none of these uses quite grasp the biblical use of the word Redemption. The biblical meaning of **Redemption** means "**to be delivered from slavery upon payment of a ransom.**"

The reality of redemption is scattered all throughout the Scriptures. The primary example is when God's people, the Israelites are slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. Pharaoh afflicted them with heavy burdens and made their life bitter. God told Moses in **Exodus 6:6** - "**Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the**

**Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.”**

If redemption is delivery from slavery, and we have redemption, then what have we been enslaved to? What have we been redeemed from? Here are four things the Bible says we are slaves to:

1. **Captive to the Curse of the Law** - **“Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law....” Gal. 3:23**
2. **Slave to the Power of Sin** - Jesus said, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin” John 8:34**
3. **Enslaved to the Kingdom of Satan** - The next chapter of Eph will speak of us, **“following the prince of the power of the air...” Eph 2:2**
4. **In Bondage to the Legal Demands of Sin** - **“For the wages of sin is death...” Rom. 6:23**

But Paul says we have redemption and so of these things Christ redeemed us from. And it's important to know what you've been saved from, but just as critical to know what you've been redeemed to.

1. **Redeemed to Sonship (Gal. 4:4-5)** You are no longer held captive under the law but you are redeemed to Sonship.
2. **Redeemed to Obedience and Righteousness - (Romans 6:17-18)** You are no longer slaves to sin, but you are redeemed to obedience and righteousness. Sin no longer calls the shots. You now have His spirit that empowers you for obedience to God
3. **Redeemed to the Kingdom of God - (Colossians 1:13-14)** You are no longer enslaved to the Kingdom of Satan but you have been transferred to the Kingdom of God.
4. **Redeemed to Eternal Life** - And you are no longer held in bondage to the legal demands of the sin but you have been redeemed from death and to eternal life.

**Romans 6:22-23 says, “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

It says eternal life is a free gift. Meaning we didn't pay for it. The blessing of redemption is free to us, but it cost Jesus everything.

**“In Him, we have redemption, through His blood.” Eph 1:7** Redemption does not happen apart from blood being spilled. In Exodus, it was the blood of sacrificed passover lambs. But we

have a better redemption. **Hebrews 9:12 - 'He (Jesus) entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.'**

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

Jesus paid it all. He cancelled our sin debt before God and purchased our freedom. God pardons us and forgives us. **"In Him, we have redemption, through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses. Eph. 1:7**

Did you know that it's God's desire to forgive you? Micah 7:18-19 - **Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us."** God will not change His mind because His forgiveness and redemption is not according to your behavior, but according to His grace.

**"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us" Eph 1:7-8**

God is wealthy in His grace. You have not committed any sin that is richer than God's grace. He lavishes it upon us. The idea with God's grace being lavished on you is that it's incredibly generous and a crazy amount that seems unreal. The word lavish comes from an Old French word meaning torrent. It refers to rain. Like a torrential rain. Receiving God's grace is like standing out in a torrential rain that's blowing sideways. It's more than enough. This is the idea with God's grace being lavished upon you. Today when you woke up, you woke up in a flood of His grace. When you end this night, and you fall into a sin that has gripped you for a long time, in Christ, the torrential rain of God's grace will lavish upon you. **Romans 5:20 - "...but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more..."**

Now the purpose of this grace is not that your sin increase but your holiness would increase. Grace comes before obedience. Don't get that backwards. Not obedience to receive grace, that's not grace or the gospel. But you receive grace first and out of that comes a heart for obedience.

### **Jesus Has Been Revealed To Us**

Jesus redeems you and Jesus has been revealed to you.

Eph.1:8-10a - **"in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time"**

Destiny's grandma used to dish out some awesome tasty desserts like chocolate pie and pineapple and strawberry cake. I mean, like for real, not just your typical cake. But when you taste it, it's like how did you get a strawberry cake to taste like this. But as her grandma aged, she didn't have the strength to bake anymore, so she did the next best thing. Passed along her secrets. You and I are in the family of God. You know one of the best things about being in a family? We get the family recipes. The secret sauce has been passed down. Before Jesus came, we couldn't tell what God was up to in history. And frankly, we didn't care. But the mystery was made known when Jesus came. All throughout the Old Testament, there were hints. There were promises and prophecies pointing us forward to Christ. God was acting in

history, moving history along so that when the time was just right, He would send His Son as a ransom for many. Jesus is the key to understanding God's Will.

The mystery of God's Will is that the work of Jesus is the center of God's Redemptive Plan. And Eph. chapter 3 will show us this mystery is that God was working through the Jews to save the world through Jesus. The story in the Garden, Noah's Ark, the formation of Israel and their delivery from Egypt, and all of what the prophets said, was pointing forward and would culminate in Jesus. And he would save not just the Jews, but all the nations and languages. And as His family we say, alright we get it! We see the mystery! We have eyes to see and ears to hear.

Those in the family can see it and they rejoice in it. **1 Corinthians 30-31 -"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."**

We boast in the Lord because it's all about Him. The mystery of God's Will is Jesus and His redemptive work. And he was there in the beginning when it was all planned. That's what verse 9 means when it says, **...which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time"** vs.9-10a God the Father did not plan this in isolation, but was in complete harmony with God the Son before the world was made. The pre-existent Christ helped design a plan where He would take on flesh, suffer and die to redeem the world. A plan that it says was for the fullness of time. This phrase, "fullness of time" means that God has been sovereign over every human and world event to make the time ripe for the birth of Christ through a virgin. Then be crucified on a cross as God crushed Him in His judgment for our sins. He was buried and 3 days later, God moved the stone away and He walked out of the grave. He ascended into Heaven and promises to come back and get us. History is moving towards something by the will of God. It's not just wound up and let's see where it goes but God has had His hand on it since before everything was made. He's moving history to a final destination. That destination is a new heaven and new earth where the redeemed will be reconciled.

### **Jesus Will Reconcile Us**

**Eph 1:10b" ...as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."**

There is a future for the redeemed. The phrase "unite all things in him" in the original language literally means "to sum up." If you were to ask all the questions like, what's the purpose of existence? Why am I suffering? Where is history going? What does this all add up to? The answer is Jesus. God's plan is to sum up, to bring together all things under the rule of Christ. Including Satan and his demons as well as unrepentant sinners. They will come under the submission of Christ and He will deal with them justly. Casting them away in a lake of fire. It's part of the reorder under His rule. He's establishing a new heaven and new earth where the redeemed will dwell with Him, in our redeemed resurrected bodies. And everything that we question and suffer with now, will be ironed out and find its purpose as we all are united in Jesus. He is the Alpha and Omega. He planned the mission from the beginning to be slain for us, to be reconciled to Him, and He will stand victorious in the end.

## **Conclusion**

Let me give you 3 takeaways:

### ***Remember who God is: The Scandalous Redeemer***

In the Old Testament, the prophet Hosea has a mind boggling story. I want you to imagine for a minute that you are Hosea's best friend. Hosea tells you, you know the lady of the night that goes by Gomer? Yeah. God wants me to take her as my wife and I'm going to start a family with her. Now as his best friend, you need to give some wise counsel. So you say, "Bro, I don't know if you're thinking straight. For starters, her name is Gomer. Look, I ain't seen her instagram, but with a name like that, it's probably not a pretty picture. And second, she's with a different man every night. But Hosea marries the prostitute and starts a family. And after having a few children, Gomer is right back to her old ways, cheating on Hosea. But God is teaching us through Hosea how he loves his people, even when they continue to cheat on Him. So God essentially says, go do what I do to my people every day when they cheat on me **"Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress."**

Hosea buys back His sex slaved wife with some silver and food. Like Gomer, we give ourselves over to lesser lovers than God; turning our back on Him over and over and over. Hosea is a picture of how patient God is with us as we commit spiritual adultery. Hosea teaches us that God redeems us not based on how clean we are. He seeks out the worst of sinners based on His promise and love. It's scandalous. Do you ever feel you're too far gone from God? Listen, on the Day of the Lord, Jesus will not be holding you like a box of cold soggy fries, saying, man, I blew this mission and toss you to the side. He wasn't after the hot crispy fries anyway. He didn't come to seek after the righteous. He went dumpster diving looking for the maggot infested fries. He came to redeem the unrighteous, the unclean, and clothe them with His righteousness and make them a new creation. He's not going to change His mind on you. He will go to you again and again and again. He's delighted you are in His family.

Remember who God is: a scandalous redeemer who's grace is for the worst of sinners.

### ***Remember Who You Are: Forgiven and Redeemed***

When Titus was 2, we sometimes would let him drink Sprite. But Titus didn't know the name of it so he called it by what he saw: White Coke. A coke looking drink that fizzes up white. It's brilliant. That became normal language in our house for years. White Coke would be on the grocery list. And it's all cute until I'm at a Zaxby's drive thru getting fried chicken and when the lady asked what I wanted to drink, I said "white coke." She said, come again? Kids have a way of calling it as they see it, don't they? Paul does the same thing. When he addressed the church of Ephesus, he didn't call them idolaters, racists, fornicators. Although some of these Christians had those behaviors. But Paul called them Saints, Adopted, Chosen. Redeemed. Paul called it as he saw it. It was the truest thing about them. Paul wants you to swim in the deep waters of the gospel so you know who you are. Think back to Noah's Ark. Being cooped up in there for months, I'm sure Noah and his wife had their spouts. Imagine if they did. Noah tells his wife, I spent decades building this, can't you clean it sometimes?! A little swiffer action and some pledge. That's all I ask. She responds, Why are you always criticising me? I do the dirty work. I don't see you scooping the camel poop you lazy bum. Here's the point. No matter what

arguments, accusations, or sins took place. The truest thing about them would not be bad marriage or laziness. The truest thing about them is that they are “in the ark!” Safe and secure in the arms of God. They aren’t drowning in the water. They’re alive!

You aren’t Christians because of your performance, but because you are in Christ. You see, the truest thing about you this morning is the reality of Christ. It’s Christ in you, and you in Him. And so you don’t always feel it. You don’t always see it. You definitely don’t behave like it. But it’s the truest reality and so work to see it. Remember, you are redeemed!

### ***Respond and Retell It***

The third takeaway. Respond and Retell it. When God redeemed the Israelites from out of Egypt and led them on dry ground through the parted waters of the Red Sea..They responded by singing a song of deliverance in Exodus Chapter 15. Here’s part of it. **“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has hurled both horse and rider into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him...” Exodus 15:1-2 (NLT)** The truths about your redemption should stir your affections for God to a burst of praise. Worship Him.

But also, keep retelling the story to others. The Lord set feast, practices and signs up so that His people would remember how the Lord rescued them and they would tell the next generation.

**Exodus 13:14 - “And in the future, your children will ask you, ‘What does all this mean?’ Then you will tell them, ‘With the power of his mighty hand, the Lord brought us out of Egypt, the place of our slavery.’”** At your work, in your homes, at the coffee shop, or wherever you find yourself, find ways to share how the Lord pursued you, brought you out of the slavery of sin, forgave you, according to the riches of His grace, and with a strong hand that was pierced and nailed to a cross.

### Communion

The Lord has given us a sign today so that we can remember that He redeemed us, and how He redeemed us, with the costly price of His Son’s life. On the night that he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and said to his disciples, “This is my body, which is broken for you; eat this in remembrance of me.” He also took a cup of wine, and after blessing it, gave it to his disciples and said, “This cup is the new covenant marked by the shedding of my blood. For as often as you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you announce the Lord’s death until he returns.” **Today we are announcing that Jesus Christ accomplished His mission to deliver you from sin and to Himself.**

Our tradition here at Antioch is to come forward and break off a piece of bread and dip it in the juice. There will be stations here in the front; gluten-free bread will be available to your right. If you’re a baptized believer, come and remember who you are (redeemed, forgiven) and whose you are. If you’re a believer but not yet baptized, before coming to the table, we would love to help you first come and declare your faith publicly through baptism. If you’re not a Christian, this sacred symbol is not for you, but rather than taking communion, we encourage you to take Christ. He has made himself available to you this very moment. There will be pastors in the back to talk and pray with you about any need you have. Let’s pray.

