

FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DURHAM, NC

GAMMA22

GAMMA
SERIES

EPHESIANS

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE, EMPOWERED BY PEACE



STUDY 4

HIS SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:7-14

GRACE OF GOD IN CHRIST
EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING
EPHESIANS 1:3-14

1. Election

2. Predestination

3. Adoption

4. Redemption

5. Knowledge of His grand
plan

6. Inheritance

7. Sealing with Holy Spirit

THE METHOD -REDEMPTION

Ephesians 1:7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight



PRICE TO BE PAID

CAN WE JUST FORGIVE?





Love

Justice

ROLE OF GRACE

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

Undeserved mercy

A man with long, dark hair and a surprised expression is peering over a large, open book with a dark green cover. The book is held up to his face, with only his eyes and forehead visible above the pages. The background is a dark, textured grey.

Redemption through his grace

Forgiveness of all past and present sins and judicial grounds for forgiveness of future si

Past

Present

Confession to
experience a renewed
application of our
justification

Future

We are in covenant
relationship with God. Sin
strains relationship and
confession restores it
Christ work reapplied

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY

Had a good week performed well



Had a bad week performed badly



SUPERSTITIOUS

Did quiet time ---expect miracle



Did not do QT expect God to punish



CRITICAL ,JUDGMENTAL

Gossip makes you feel powerful because you don' t feel loved unless morally superior



CONTROLLING, DEFENSIVE, ARGUMENTATIVE



Fearful for the future
Does not feel like the son



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KNOWLEDGE OF HIS GRAND PLAN

Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV) 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.

Heal the decay of the world and all of its hurts

The confusion of life



CONFUSION OF LIFE





KNOWLEDGE OF HIS GRAND PLAN IS A
FUNCTION OF FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD



GOD'S FRIENDS

John 15:14–15 (ESV) You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.



GOD'S EYE VIEW

CONTEXT-PREPECTIVE



PARALLEL PASSAGE

What it was originally

Colossians 1: 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.



Transition

What it will be in the end

Ephesians 1:9–10 (ESV) 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.

ORIGINAL PLAN

Everything was built for headship of Christ

Spiritual systems

Physical systems

Social systems

Psychological systems

Biological systems

Economical systems



A person's hands are clasped in prayer over an open book lying on a wooden table. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong light source from the side, creating a dramatic, high-contrast atmosphere. The person is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt. The text "VICTORY IS ASSURED" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the upper part of the image. To the right, the text "Kingdom consciousness means no pessimism" is overlaid in a smaller, white, monospaced font.

VICTORY IS ASSURED

Kingdom consciousness
means no pessimism

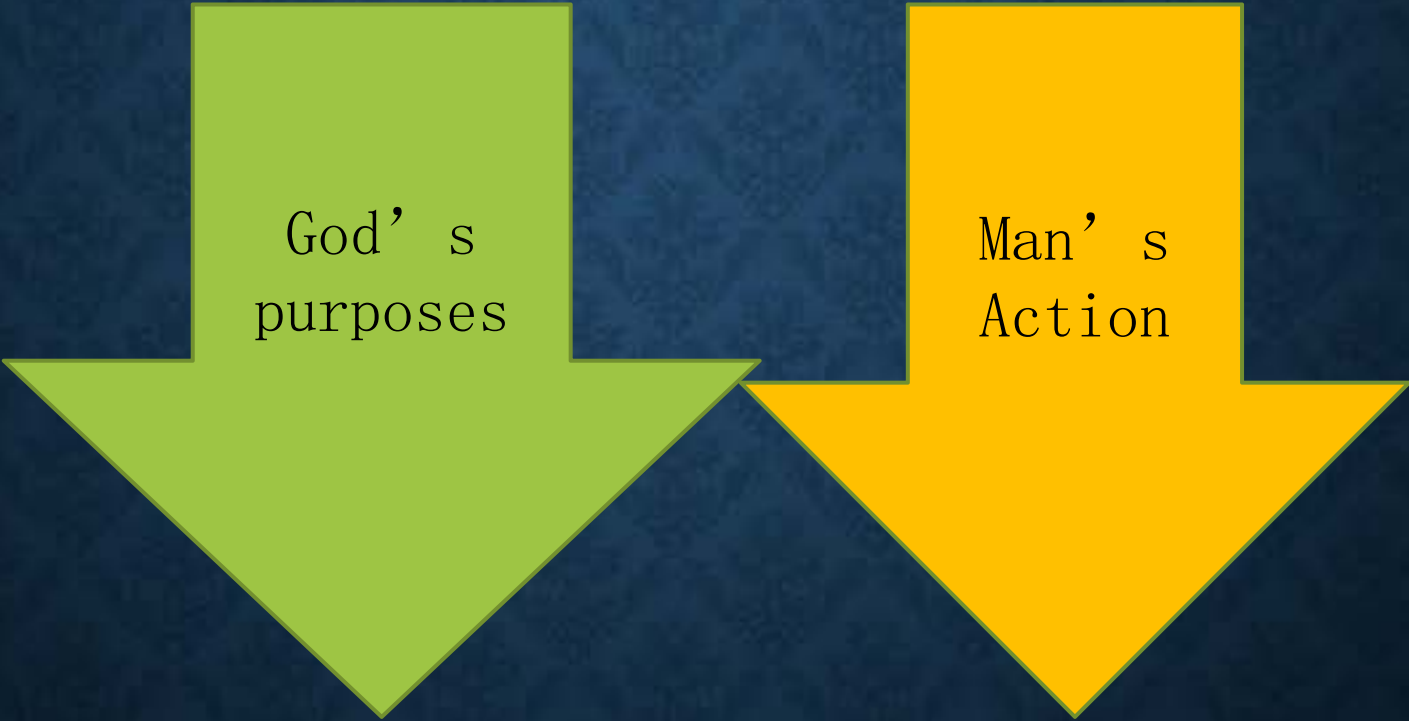
GODS PLAN IS ULTIMATE CAUSE OF EVERYTHING

- Proverbs 16:33
(ESV) The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every
decision is from
the Lord.

Major and minor things



GOD'S PLAN



God's
purposes

Man's
Action

GOD'S PLAN NEVER NEGATES OUR RESPONSIBILITY



OUR RESPONSES TO LIFE



Emotional Wreck



Confident and trusting
Incentive to work



Cynical or Resigned

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Ephesians 1:11-12 (ESV) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Inheritance

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graph TD; A[Inheritance] --> B[We are God's inheritance]; A --> C[We receive a portion of what God has]
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We are God's inheritance

We receive a portion
of what God has

Deut 4:20

But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day

Deut 7:6

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth

ETERNAL LIFE

1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

THE WORLD AND NATIONS

Romans 8:16–17 (ESV) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

SEVEN MOUNTAINS

economy

government

family

religion

media

education

arts



Rise of DOMINIONISM

and the

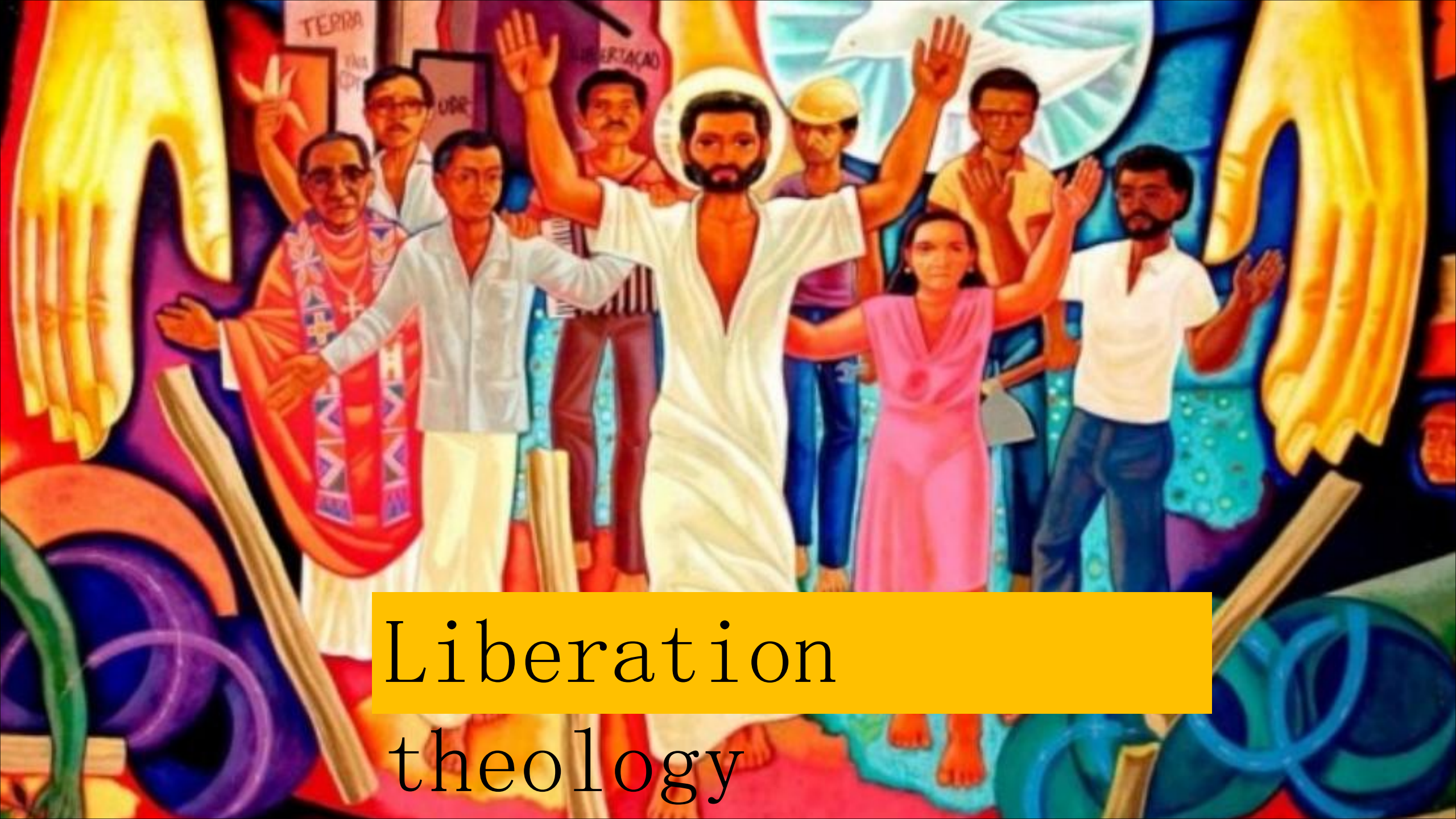
Christian Right

By JOHN W. WHITEHEAD



DOMINION THEOLOGY





Liberation

theology

JAMES AND JOHN SONS OF THUNDER

Mark 10:37–39 (ESV) And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” 39 And they said to him, “We are able.



The kingdom is the ultimate goal of the cross, and the cross is the means by which the kingdom comes

- Jeremy Treat Phd Adjunct Professor Biola University

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Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

SEAL

1. Seals in faith and seals out unbelief and apostasy.



Matt 27:66 Sealed the tomb

2. Sign of authenticity



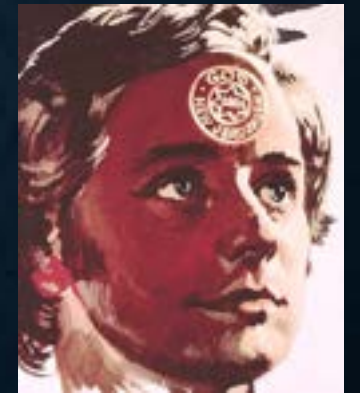
Rom 4:11 Abraham's circumcision is called the sign and *seal* of the righteousness he had by faith

3. Seal of protection from evil

Revelation 20:2-3 (ESV) And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him,



Rev 7:3 Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.



PALPABLE PRESENCE

Romans 5:5 (ESV) and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



I had a three-month period of no work, which was unusual. So I had all this time to spend with God, to pray and read the Bible. I couldn't stop reading the Bible. Every time I'd listen to a sermon or read the Bible I'd end up in tears: "Oh my gosh, this is true! I can't believe I know God and know the

CHANGE OF REFLECTION

A Gay Man's Incredible Story of Redemption

BECKET COOK

Foreword by Francis Chan

ROLE

- Depth of worship ...to the praise of his glory.
- Confidence
- Resilience in the face of opposition
- Certainty in how we live