

Colossians 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Analysis

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. The relative pronoun "in whom" (en hō, ἐν ᾧ) emphasizes location—redemption exists only in Christ, not through additional mediators or mystical experiences. "Redemption" (apolytrōsin, ἀπολύτρωσιν) means release through payment, using imagery from slave markets where captives were freed by purchase price.

"Through his blood" specifies the price: Christ's sacrificial death. Some manuscripts omit this phrase, but its inclusion emphasizes the cross's centrality against any teaching minimizing atonement. "Forgiveness of sins" (aphesin tōn hamartiōn, ἄφεσιν τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν) explains redemption's result—not merely potential pardon but actual cancellation of sin's guilt and penalty. The present tense "we have" (echomen, ἔχομεν) indicates current possession, not future hope.

Historical Context

Various first-century systems offered salvation: mystery religions through ritual initiation, Judaism through law-keeping, philosophy through enlightenment. Christianity alone located redemption in Christ's substitutionary death. The blood sacrifice fulfilled Old Testament typology while scandalizing Greek intellectuals who considered crucifixion shameful. Paul glories in what others despised, making Christ's blood the exclusive means of forgiveness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How central is Christ's blood in your understanding of salvation, or have you minimized substitutionary atonement?
2. Do you live with confidence in complete forgiveness, or perpetual guilt over past sins?
3. What modern teachings subtly undermine the sufficiency of Christ's blood by adding human requirements?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	ὃ	ἔχομεν	τὴν	ἀπολύτρωσιν	διὰ	τοῦ	αἵματος
In	whom	we have	G3588	redemption	through	G3588	blood
G1722	G3739	G2192		G629	G1223		G129
αὐτοῦ,	τὴν	ἄφεσιν	τῶν	ἁμαρτιῶν·			
his	G3588	even the forgiveness	G3588	of sins			
G846		G859		G266			

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 1:7 (Redemption): In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Hebrews 9:22 (Blood): And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Hebrews 9:12 (Redemption): Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Revelation 5:9 (Redemption): And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Galatians 3:13 (Redemption): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Matthew 20:28 (Redemption): Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Revelation 1:5 (Sin): And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Ephesians 5:2 (Parallel theme): And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Psalms 130:4 (Parallel theme): But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

1 John 2:2 (Sin): And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.