

A short verse from last Sunday's epistle reading, from Galatians 3,14 – a tremendous perspective as far as our salvation is concerned:

*He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

– What a plan from God's side!

We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God ... nevertheless God had a plan for our salvation. In this short verse Christ is in the very centre – He brought us the redemption. *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us ...* In the light of the passion of Christ, His crucifixion and His glorious resurrection – there is life for fallen man, there is hope for each and everyone of us.

Paul refers to God's promise to Abraham, Genesis 12,1-3. A worldwide blessing would in due course be given to all men, even to the Gentiles. The coming Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, and we will again read how the Spirit was poured out in Jerusalem – Jews and Gentiles heard and believed in the marvelous deeds of God: the message of Christ crucified and risen was proclaimed. People repented, believed and were baptized ...

In this time of history, our present generation, we are included in this fulfilled promise of God. We are redeemed in Christ! And by faith we have received the promise of the Spirit. Being included in this promise, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation – to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth – also in Sweden and Finland, and beyond ...

*He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

When I reflect upon this blessing, I also think of the perspective of mission in Matthew 8,11: ... *many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven ...*

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