

minor children from the place of servants under tutors and governors, to the place of full grown sons, set free from the bondage of law, and clothed with the "*toga virilis*," the token of the liberty of manhood.

And all this is "*according to the good pleasure of His will*." Let us not imagine that anything is due to us, that we are chosen to be saints, or designated to the rank of adopted sonship, but let it be "*to the praise of His glory which He freely bestowed upon us in the Beloved*."

4. THE PRESENT STAGE (VS. 7-10).

Having shown the beginning of God's purpose, he passes over the ages down to the present time, and shows what we now have as a present experience. And, first of all; *we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins*. Before anything else can be done, it becomes necessary that all sin should be put out of the way. This introduces the cross. Here the work of God begins, and here begins also the Christian's experience. The first thing that confronts the mind of one who begins to think of his future well being, is his sin; and never will he make any progress till he knows that this is forever disposed of. Hence the Gospel is the first good news, because it announces that this is done, and that through the blood of Christ, he has redemption, the forgiveness of sins. This should be clearly seen, before attempting to advance.

Then follows our introduction into the knowledge of God's purpose and plan—the mystery of His will (vs. 8-10). *Which He hath made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence* (intelligence), *having made known unto us the mystery of His will*. Did it ever occur to you what tremendous truths are given to us when we are taken into the counsel of God? And the wonder is that plain, un-