

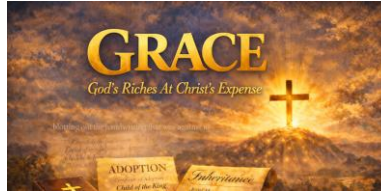
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 1:4-14 – The riches of God's grace given to those in Jesus Christ

Today's Message:

"Riches of Grace"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of God's eternal plan from before the foundation of the world! Our God is all-knowing and planned our redemption and adoption before human history began. We were reminded of the importance of context and comparing Scripture with Scripture to illuminate the words of truth. Today, we will take a closer look at the incredible riches of God's grace. It has been well said that "GRACE" is God's Riches At Christ's Expense. This book was meant to teach us of our wealth in Jesus Christ. May we be a more humble and thankful people after spending time in God's book today. All this has been made possible because of Christ's love and sacrifice. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 1:4-14

A. Grace Defined – the free unmerited love and favor of God.

1. God's eternal plan in Christ was to be extremely **GENEROUS** to believers in Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:5 – ... by Jesus Christ to himself, **according to the good pleasure of his will**,
 - Ephesians 1:6 – To the praise of **the glory of his grace**, wherein he hath made us...
 - Ephesians 1:7 – ... the forgiveness of sins, **according to the riches of his grace**;
 - Ephesians 1:8 – Wherein **he hath abounded toward us** in all wisdom and prudence;
 - Ephesians 1:9 – ... **according to the good pleasure** which he hath purposed in himself:
 - Ephesians 1:12 – That we should be **to the praise of his glory**...
 - God takes good pleasure in giving us all spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ!
 - He has chosen to share His limitless riches and wisdom with us!
2. God's eternal plan was made possible only because of the **SACRIFICE** of Jesus Christ.
 - **2 Corinthians 8:9** – For ye know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that, though he was rich, **YET FOR YOUR SAKES HE BECAME POOR**, **that ye through his poverty might be rich**.
 - **Romans 5:8, 20** – But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, Christ died for us**... **But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound**...
 - It is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that has made this truth possible for us!

GRACE

*God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense*

Ephesians 2:7

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

"... according to the riches of his grace"

*We must pause at times, to reflect on this overwhelming reality.
David said, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" Psalm 8:4
This was said of Job in Job 7:17, 15:14 and quoted in Hebrews 2:6.*

B. Grace Given – it pleased God to bless us richly in Christ!

3. Grace **brought us** NEAR.

- He **ALLOWED** us to be with Him. **1:4** – ... without blame **before him in love**
✓ **Heb 4:16** – Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace...
- He **ADOPTED** us into His family. **1:5** – ... unto the **adoption** of children
✓ **Rom 8:15** – ... the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
- He **ACCEPTED** us in the beloved. **1:6** – ... made us **accepted** in the beloved
✓ **Song 2:16** – My beloved is mine, and I am his...

4. Grace **bought us** FREE.

- He **REDEEMED** us by His blood. **1:7** – ... have **redemption** through his blood
✓ **Heb 9:12** – ... but by his own blood... having obtained eternal redemption for us.
- He **FORGAVE** us of all our sins. **1:7** – ... the **forgiveness** of sins
✓ **Coloss 2:14** – Blotting out the handwriting... against us... nailing it to his cross;

5. Grace **blessed us** FOREVER.

- He **REVEALED** His will to us. **1:9** – ... made **known** ... mystery of his will
✓ **2 Pet 1:3-4** – ... hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...
- He gave us an **INHERITANCE**. **1:11** – ... we have **obtained an inheritance**
✓ **Rom 8:17** – And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ...
- He **INCLUDED** us in His purpose. **1:11** – ... **according to the purpose** of him
✓ **2 Tim 1:9** – Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling...
- He made us a **TESTIMONY** of His glory. **1:12** – ... **be to the praise of his glory**
✓ **Eph 2:7** – ... in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace

C. Grace Secured – the promise is to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

6. Grace **seals us** SECURELY.

- His grace must be **RECEIVED**.
✓ **Ephesians 1:13** – In whom ye also **TRUSTED**, **after that ye HEARD the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye BELIEVED, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise.**
- His grace can **FOREVER** settle your eternal salvation.
✓ **Ephesians 1:14** – Which is **the earnest of our inheritance UNTIL the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of HIS GLORY.**

W1828: “earnest”
Guarantee of full completion; that which is **given in advance and gives promise of something to come.**

Church Age Salvation
The Gospel
HEARD
TRUSTED
BELIEVED
SEALED

John 10:28-29
... **neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand... my Father’s hand.**

“... ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise...”

In Paul’s time, the seal meant ownership, authenticity, protection, and authority.
A king’s seal meant: “This belongs to me. No unauthorized hand may alter it.”