

**“DOCTRINE THAT DELIGHTS”**  
**STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS**  
**Ephesians 1:1-14**  
**“I’M BLESSED, AND I’M RICH”**

**INTRODUCTION:** We live in a world where some people will do anything- legal or illegal- in an effort to become rich. Those of us who have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ need to understand His perspective on true wealth. Having a lot of money can have its advantages, but money can be spent, taken or lost, leaving us in poverty. Jesus spoke about how those who cannot handle earthly riches will not be trusted with “real riches”. (Luke 16:11) What did He mean by this, and are you trustworthy?

**BACKGROUND:** Paul wrote Ephesians and Colossians in prison. Colossians shows Christ as Head of His Church, and Ephesians emphasizes believers as the Body of Christ. We are seated with Him in the heavenlies.

Ephesus was a large city with over 250,000 people, positioned between two continents where “east met west.” It was a melting pot of cultures, religions, and Roman power. It was famous for many buildings and schools, but most significantly the temple of Diana (Artemis) which was recognized as one of the seven wonders of the world. The grotesque image of this “mother goddess” supposedly fell from the sky, and people made their living making idols of her. Temple worship of Diana included encounters with sacred prostitutes. Paul stayed there over three years on this third missionary journey, and planted a large church. Famous figures like Mark, Apollos, Aquila, Priscilla, Tychichus, and Timothy all ministered there. Sadly, before the end of the first century, the saints in Ephesus had substituted “works” for God instead of “love” for Him. (Acts 19-20) (Revelation 2:1-7)

### **I. THE BLESSED WORK OF GOD THE FATHER (Ephesians 1:1-6)**

A, Paul recognized that his calling as an Apostle was God’s sovereign choice for his life. As believers, we have experienced **grace** (*charis*, God’s unmerited favor) and **peace** (*shalom*) as gifts from our Lord.

B. **GOD is BLESSED** (praised; well spoken of) because of who He is. He has blessed us (enriched our lives with His presence and gifting) so we have EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. The “heavenlies” describe the spiritual realm of the true realities where real spiritual warfare occurs. (2nd Cor. 4:18)

C. **CHOSEN:** Before the Creation of the world, the Lord loved us and decided to save anyone and everyone who trusted Jesus Christ as Lord. He chose us to be **holy** (set apart; unique) and **blameless** in His sight. People are more important to God than anything He ever spoke into existence. He did not *have* to save anyone, He **chose** to save anyone!

D. **PREDESTINATED:** *God intentionally marked off in advance what would happen to those He saved.* Believers become **ADOPTED** into the family of God, **mature** as sons (and daughters) to work with the Father, and we are conformed to the image of His Son, Christ Jesus. **Predestination is not a term used with unbelievers.** (Romans 8:28-29) (Ephesians 1:5) (Matthew 23:37)

E. The Lord has done these things for us to praise Him for His glorious grace, not engage in theological arguments about the meanings of these terms. We should rejoice in being **ACCEPTED in the BELOVED ONE**, because we all have a deep need for *acceptance*. Many have ruined their lives trying to be accepted by those who have rejected them. (Ephesians 1:6) (Colossians 1:21-22)

### **II. THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF GOD THE SON (Ephesians 1:7-12)**

A. The death (**blood**) of Christ was the price paid to purchase our redemption. It is a price that is beyond human comprehension. Historically, redemption could be accomplished by power or

purchase. Redemption could set someone free from captivity. We have been set free from slavery to sin, and we now belong to a new Owner! (1st Peter 1:18-19)

B. We have received **forgiveness** of our sins because of the **riches of His grace**. We have been *released* from having to pay the death penalty for our sins against a Holy God. (Romans 3:23) (2nd Corinthians 8:9)

C. The **wisdom** (“sophia” in the Greek) of God is a term used to describe the highest and noblest in learning, skill, sound judgment, etc. Here it refers to God’s **Omniscience**. *Prudence* is right thinking and actions that come from wisdom. The Lord has been pleased to reveal to us mysteries of His will which could never be learned from human observation or study. He did this of His own initiative, and was **pleased** to do so! (Ephesians 1: 8-9)

D. In God’s perfect time, the Lord will gather everything in heaven and earth together in Christ Jesus. All rebellious spirits will be forever doomed, *all* believers will be forever glorified! (Ephesians 1:10)

E. Without any input from anyone else, God determined “ahead of time” that we would receive an inheritance that is uncorrupted, undefiled, and reserved in heaven for us! (Ephesians 1:11) (1st Peter 1:4) (1st Corinthians 2:9) It will never fade away.

F. Many Jews were the first to trust in Christ, and many Gentiles also became followers, being forever united into *one* body. *All of this was done to the praise of His glory!* (Ephesians 1:12)

### **III. THE CONFIRMING WORK OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT (Ephesians 1:13-14)**

A. When you believe the gospel and are born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, He indwells your human spirit as a permanent resident. His ownership “seal” is **proof you will not lose your salvation**. Sealing wax was used on official documents. That document would then be “signed, sealed, and delivered!”

B. The Spirit of God will seal His witnesses during the Tribulation Period, and those who reject Christ will receive the seal (mark) of the Beast and belong to him. (Revelation 14)

C. The Holy Spirit is the “earnest” of our inheritance. Earnest money was a term used to serve as a downpayment, proving someone was sincere about a transaction. The indwelling Holy Spirit is proof that we will jointly inherit all the Father has for the Son (Romans 8:16-17) and that *we* (believing Jews and Gentiles) *are God’s chosen possession and inheritance*. (Ephesians 1:14) (Malachi 3:17)

**IF YOU HAVE A SAVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE BEEN ENRICHED FOREVER. STOP LIVING AS THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN REJECTED, WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, ADOPTED, AND ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED!**

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February 12, 2023*