

PART 1 HANDOUT EPHESIANS 1: 1-14 YOU ARE RICH!

Eph 1:3 states its Theme "The Christian's Riches in Christ. Paul Explains The Sphere of Our Blessings Are Not Here for Victorious Living, They're In the Heavenly's In Christ.

- A Christian lives In 2 Spheres: Physically, On Earth...But Spiritually He's Seated with Christ in the Heavenly Sphere. *It is this Heavenly Sphere that Provides Power & Direction for Our Earthly Walk.*
- KEY: Christians, No Matter Where They may Be on this Earth, are Seated in the Heavenly's with Jesus Christ, and This is the Basis of Our Life and Power!
- We have Wealth Untold in Christ. We Inherit the Wealth by Faith and Invest the Wealth by Works. *Without this Balance, Our Spiritual Riches Do Us NO Good!*

In Our Text We see that the Triune God: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, Work Together to Make Our Salvation Possible. **READ Vs 4-6**

- Vs4. He has Chosen Us This is the marvelous Doctrine of Election, a Doctrine that has Confused Some and Confounded Others. Salvation Begins with God, and NOT with Man. **John 15:16**
- And He Chose You and Me For This Purpose...To Be Holy and Without Blame.
- We Respond to God's Grace As God's Grace Makes Us Willing to Respond. **READ 1 Peter 1:3-4**

God the Father Chose Us...The Son Died for Us and the Holy Spirit Convicts Us to Receive Christ/Savior.

- Vs 5 He has Adopted Us. Here we meet that Misunderstood word Predestination. No where in the Bible does it say People are Predestined to Hell, Because this Word Refers ONLY to God's People.
- Election Refers to People...While Predestination Refers to Purposes. For example: The Events Connected with the Crucifixion of Christ were Predestined (Acts 4)
- "God Predestined Our Adoption, And Our Conformity to Christ, As Well As Our Future Inheritance.

Adoption has a "Dual" meaning, it is Both Present and Future. You do NOT Get Into God's Family by Adoption. You Get into His Family ONLY by Regeneration...Receiving God's Free Gift of Salvation.

- Adoption is the Act of God giving His believers an Adult Standing in the Family. So that We might *Immediately Claim Our Inheritance* and Riches in Christ!
- Vs 6: Says We Cannot make Ourselves Acceptable to God; But He, By His Grace, Makes Us Accepted in Christ. This is Our Eternal Position, which will Never Change.

READ Vs 7-12 Which Speak to the Blessings from God, the SON

- Vs 1:7a: He Redeemed Us...He Purchased and Set Free by Paying a Price. 1 Peter 1: 18
- If we were slaves, we would be poor, but because we are sons, we are rich

VS 7 He has Forgiveness Us. The word Forgive means. "To Carry Away." Christ Died to Carry Away Our Sins So They Might Never Be Seen Again! **Point: Sin Made Us Poor, But Grace Makes Us Rich**

Vs 8-10: He has Revealed God's Gift to Us. The word Mystery means a "Sacred Secret, once Hidden, But Now Revealed to God's People."

- Believers are Able to Share in the Secret that God will one day Unite everything in Christ. Ever since sin came into the world in Genesis 3. Today, Sin is tearing everything apart, But in Christ, God will gather everything together in the culmination of the ages. We are a part of this Eternal Program.

Versus 11-12: He Made Us an Inheritance. READ 1 Peter 1:1-4

- God's Son is the Father's "Love Gift" to Us; and We're the Father's love gift to His son
- Eph 1: The Church is Christ's Body; Eph 2: His Building and Eph 5: His Bride. Christ future inheritance is wrapped up in his church.

READ VS 13-14 Which Speak to the Blessings from God, the Holy Spirit

- Verse 13 He has Sealed Us! The Entire Process of Salvation is Given in this Verse. He hears the Gospel of Salvation. **Your Salvation** that Christ Died for Our Sins, was Buried and Rose Again.

Vs 13 “When You Believed, You Were Marked in him with a seal, the Promised Holy Spirit.”

- Vs 14 says, This Seal (Holy Spirit) is an Immediate Deposit Guaranteeing Our Inheritance.
- The Significance of the Sealing of the Holy Spirit speaks that it is a Finished Transaction.
- **The Seal also means Security and Protection** the Believer Belongs to God and is Safe and Protected Because he is a Part of a Finished “Eternal” Transaction.
- **The Seal is a Mark of Authenticity.** A Signature on a Letter, is a Test of the Genuineness of the Document, Likewise, the Presence of the Spirit Proves the Believer is Genuine

Key: It is Not simply Our Profession, Our Religious Activity, or Our Good Works, But the Witness of the Spirit that Makes Our Profession Authentic!

VS 14: He has Given Us an Earnest. Earnest meant the Down Payment to Guarantee the Final Purchase of Some Commodity or Piece of Property. **Phil 1:6 “Being Confident of this, that He who Began a Good Work in You Will Carry it on to Completion until the day of Christ Jesus”.**

- The Word Translated “Ernest” also Means “Engagement Ring”. Our Relationship to God Through Christ is a Personal Experience of Love. He is the Bride Groom, His church is the Bride, He will come and claim His Bride because He Gave Us His Promise and Spirit As The Engagement Ring!

So What Do these Verses Teach Us?

First: True Riches Come from God. God Gives Us All things to Enjoy Now, And In Christ, He Gives Us Eternal Riches. *In Christ, You and I have the things Money can Never Buy, and these Spiritual Riches Open Up to Us All the Wealth of God's Vast Creation.*

Second: All of these Riches Come By God's Grace and for God's Glory. **God the Father** Chose us, Adopted Us and Accepted Us. **God the Son** Redeemed Us, Forgave Us, Revealed God's Will to Us, and Made Us a Part of God's Inheritance. **God the Holy Spirit** Sealed Us and Becomes the Guarantee of Our Future “Eternal” Blessing.

Too often Christians have the idea that God saves sinners because he pities them, or wants to Rescue them for Eternal Judgment. **But God's Main Purpose is that He Might Be Glorified!** His Creation Reveals His Wisdom and Power...But His Church Reveals His Love and Grace.

- You Cannot earn Spiritual Riches You can Only Receive them by Grace through Faith.

Third, these Riches are Only the Beginning! There is more Spiritual Wealth to Claim from the Lord as We Walk with Him. **GAL 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit!**

- In Christ We Can Have Joy midst Every Trial!
- In Christ We Can Have a Peace that Passes Human Understanding!
- Christ Gives Us the Ability to Have the Patience of Job...To be Kind to Others that are Not Kind to Us...To Be Faithful...and To Live with Self-Control...
- These are the Riches the World Seeks But Cannot Have Apart from Having God the Holy Spirit Living Within!

The Bible is Our Guidebook; the Holy Spirit is Our Teacher. As We Search the Word of God, We Discover More and More of All the Riches We Have Available in Christ.

Next Week, in Paul's Prayer in Chapter 1 He Does Not Ask God to Give the Ephesian Church what they do Not have...Rather He Prays that God Will Reveal to them What They Already Have In Christ.

- Likewise For Us...We Need to Understand that There is Really NO Need for Us to Live In Poverty, When All of God's Wealth Is At Our Disposal.

LifePoint: By Faith, We Claim God's Promises and Draw Upon His Limitless Wealth to Meet Every Need We Face.