



Ephesians

Part 8

Ephesians 1:15-18
Week of April 24, 2021

Before Connect Group

- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:15-23, ESV

Sermon Notes

You have been invited into the eternal work of salvation that has been at work for all time.

We have one experience of coming to the glory of God. We experience it perhaps at a church camp, or some other event when we give our heart to the Lord, thinking everything will change with our passionate response. Yet, we gradually drift away, thinking that knowledge is all we need to continue in right relationship with Jesus Christ. But knowledge without the glory and passion of God will leave us knowing of God but never fully experiencing His glory.

We want to look at the riches of His glorious inheritance and know God, not just have knowledge of Him. The powerful work of Jesus Christ is to draw to Himself those who do not know Him and do not deserve to be with Him.

Inheritance:

- Read vs. 18c - (that you may know) "What are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints"
- The focus of the second petition in this prayer is on the descriptive words around "inheritance" here.
- On the last Sunday of March I preached through chapter 1:11-14 (read these verses)... Here Paul speaks of the inheritance we "have" through the work of Christ. Paul is not simply repeating himself. We have the inheritance if we are in Christ. His prayer is that we might truly "know" it.

Riches:

- Your inheritance is by the hand of God! And as such is greater than any from this world.
- *Ephesians 3:7-9 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,*
- When Paul speaks of riches in the book of Ephesians, it is an attribute of God that has been generously bestowed upon us.
 - *Ephesians 1:7 - Redemption through his blood, forgiveness of our trespasses... riches of his grace*
 - *Ephesians 2:4 - But God, being rich in mercy...*
 - *Ephesians 2:7 - he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*
 - *Ephesians 3:16 - according to the riches of his glory*
- Each one of these descriptions in the book of Ephesians highlights this inheritance that we have is not something that can be produced or found in this world. It is an inheritance that comes only in Christ!
- The reason that Paul is praying this over us who believe, is because there is a real struggle for believers to draw close and hold tight to the inheritance we have in Christ. We are so quickly swept away by the riches of this world. This inheritance of the earth is one which we can earn.
- We are Christians who daily justify our pursuit of worldly comfort over heavenly glory
- We will educate our children in mathematics and science, in a daily rhythm, but seldomly

open the living Word of God.

- We spend hours obsessing and pontificating with ourselves future plans and portfolios, but bowing before the sovereign Lord in prayer is a forgotten ritual in our daily routine.
- The riches of this world, when they become the unchecked focus of life, are no more than weapons of the enemy to conceal God's glory in you.
- *Luke 8:11-15 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.*
- The riches of the world seek to choke out the Word of God in you!
- The riches of his world are rendered as offerings to be obedient to the true riches that come from our faith.
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.
- Those who are in Christ (chap. 1:3-14), and through faith "sealed" with the promised Holy Spirit: You are "rich" in your inheritance.
- My prayer today is in line with Paul's, that you would truly know, as you leave this place, that you are the richest people walking this earth. And that would humble you to joyfully live in more obedience to the one who is rich in love, mercy, grace, and all things...
- May our hearts turn from the burdens of today and simply cry out in praise to God with Paul
- *Rom. 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

Glorious:

- Your inheritance is in the presence of God! And therefore washed in His Glory
- This word used as a description for Paul is used four times in total throughout his epistles, and two of those are here in Ephesians. This one, and previously in 1:6 "to the praise of his glorious grace,"
- The consistent idea throughout Scripture is that it is a radiance/weight that not only displays, but is directly connected to and near Glory.
- The works directly from God's hands.
- *Exodus 15:11 "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? The speaking of His name*
- *Psalms 72:19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!*
- *Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.*
- The main idea here is that this inheritance is in God and of God. This inheritance belongs

to God and you are drawn into “glory”.

- “Glorious” is no small description in the Bible. Why? Because it is from and a part of the noun “Glory” which is reserved for God alone. When it is used of other things, it is done so negatively.
- You, in Christ, are no different!
 - It is no small thing to be redeemed...
 - It is no small thing to be forgiven...
 - It is no small thing to be adopted...
 - It is no small thing to be “in” Christ!
 - You are to the praise of His Glory!

In The Saints:

- Your inheritance is for God! And demands an immediate response.
- When we worked through vs. 11-14 we talked about how one of the major descriptions of this inheritance is that you are a portion set aside for God.
- *Deuteronomy 4:19-20 And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.*
- *Colossians 1:12-14 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*
- You have been invited into the eternal work of salvation that has been at work for all time.
- You have been set apart to glorify God in your life as His child.
 - Glorify Him in your obedience
 - Glorify Him in your repentance.
 - Glorify Him in your worship.
 - ... in all that you do.
- This faith, life, and worship that you have in Christ is not a means to an end. It is the end.
- *Ephesians 2:12-13 Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

I truly pray that you would know the riches, the gloriousness, and inclusion that comes in your inheritance. This spurs us to worship and to obedience to live the glory that is in our hearts in Jesus Christ.

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- **Riches:** Your inheritance is by the hand of God! And as such is greater than any from this world.
- **Glorious:** Your inheritance is in the presence of God! And therefore washed in His Glory
- **In The Saints:** Your inheritance is for God! And demands an immediate response.

- The world offers us competing riches that attempt to get our focus off of the riches of our inheritance. What are some of the cultural riches that seek to distract us from knowing God more?
- How do we submit to the riches of our inheritance in Jesus Christ, rather than the riches the world had to offer?
- How do we bring glory to God in our actions? Where do we struggle the most with bringing glory to God in our actions?
- Our inheritance is in the saints from God. What should our immediate response to the inheritance in the saints be?
- What is worship and how do we worship God? What is the foundation of our worship?

Challenge For The Week

Part of our inheritance means we join the already in progress work of Jesus Christ. We have the honor and opportunity to grow closer to God as we pour out ourselves in worship to Him, and proclaim Him to others that they might know the person and work of Jesus Christ.

- Worship is the pouring out of our selves to God. Where are some of the areas of your life that you need to fully surrender to God for His glory?
- Who do you know that needs to surrender to the glory of God and come to know Him? Schedule time to regularly pray for that person.