

## ***How Rich You Are! – Ephesians 1:4-14 (Part 1)***

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### **Introduction**

1. We have been blessed with every spiritual blessing that we will ever need in Christ. Jesus has made it possible for Christians to share His spiritual riches. Jesus didn't spend it all, He paid it all!
2. In this long sentence in the Greek (1:3-14), Paul names a few of the blessings that make up our spiritual wealth. Today we will only cover what the Father has blessed us with.

### **I. Blessings From God The Father (1:4-6)**

#### **a. He Has Chosen Us (v4)**

- i. God has chosen us ***in Christ***. Some call this the doctrine of election and have mistakenly tried to teach that God has chosen those who will be saved and those who will be condemned without their choice. We all have the same opportunity to be chosen. It is when we get into Christ.
- ii. Salvation does begin with God (Romans 3:10-12). Jesus came to seek out sinners for salvation (Luke 19:10). Then we are called to obey the gospel in order to get into Christ (Romans 8:29-30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14). We are chosen because we heeded the call of God for salvation and put in Christ (John 3:16-17; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Acts 10:34; Romans 10:11-13; 2 Peter 1:10; Revelation 22:17).
- iii. God chose those ***in Christ***. Those in Christ have been elected. Anyone who obeys the gospel will be in Christ. It is an open invitation to all! However, He chose us in Christ for a purpose: to be holy and without blame.
  1. *Holy* is the Greek word *hagios*, which always has in it the idea of *difference* and of *separation*. The temple was holy because it was different from other buildings. Jesus was holy yet notice He did not stay away from sinners. He embraced them, loved them, served them and yet was still holy.
  2. That is our challenge! To be in the world yet different. We are to be loving, forgiving, kind, patient, hopeful, honest, servants to everyone even our enemies. Every place we go people will be able to tell that we are not like them. We are lights in the dark.
  3. We are also to be blameless doing God's perfect will.

#### **b. He Has Adopted Us (v5)**

- i. *Adoption* has a dual meaning, both present and future. You do not get into God's family by adoption. You get into His family by regeneration, the new birth (1 Peter 1:22-25; John 1:12-13). Adoption is not predestined salvation it is our choice.
- ii. Adoption is the act of God by which He gives His "born ones" an adult standing in the family. Why does He do this? So that we might immediately begin to claim our inheritance and enjoy our spiritual wealth (Romans 8:16-17)
- iii. The future aspect is found in Romans 8:22-23 & 1 Peter 1:3-5.

#### **c. He Has Accepted Us (v6)**

- i. Some translations read, "He has be-graced [literal translation] us in the Beloved." Because of God's grace in Christ, we are called to come into His kingdom and reign with His Son (Ephesians 2:1-10). Will you heed the call?