



September 6, 2020 - Ephesians 1:17-21

OPEN

Have you ever run across the phrase, “You’re richer than you think?”

Many Christians remain tragically unaware of all the riches and resources that belong to them because of their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Paul prayed for the Ephesians to overcome this dilemma – see **Ephesians 1:15-16**. This prayer came on the heels of an eloquent **doxology** which began in 1:3. Paul blessed God who has blessed believers with every blessing!

Why was Paul so passionate that the Ephesian believers know about their riches in Christ? He was invested. He served there for three years, selflessly and sincerely preaching the Gospel.

Acts 20:18-38 which records a meeting on the beach. Paul was enroute from Asia Minor to Jerusalem. At Miletus he met with the elders from Ephesus. This was very touching, tear-filled meeting. He shared his...

- Warning verse 28 “keep watch over yourselves and all the flock”
- Longing verse 32 “I commit you to God and to the word of his grace”
- Knowing verse 32 “inheritance among all those who are sanctified”

What is this inheritance? Why was it left “unclaimed”? In Canada about a billion dollars are left unused on gift cards! Let us take seriously the pleas of Paul that we leave our inheritance in Christ unused. Read Ephesians 1:17-21.

DIG

Paul prayed for believers to grasp their wealth in Christ in three ways:

1. An ever-deepening relationship - vv. 17

Do you know Jesus more deeply today than when you first placed your faith in Him? Do you “**know him better**” (v.17)? This was the first goal of Pauls’ prayer.

Mike Breen writes, “Engaging in Kingdom mission without being equally attentive to our own personal transformation through relationship with the King is like asking for a cheeseburger with no cheese. It stops being the very thing we’re asking for.” (***Multiplying Missional Leaders***, 3DM, 2012, 13)

According to Ephesians 1:3-4 God has blessed the believer richly and profoundly. Why? So that we might be found “holy and blameless” in Christ! And the goal is that we would **fully know** Jesus better.

2. An ever-delighting richness - vv. 18

The next prayer point of Paul was that Christians in Ephesus might be illuminated. He longed for them to have “eyes of the heart” enlightened by the Holy Spirit so they would be rooted in their eternal **hope** and **calling**. Why? So that they would understand “**the riches of his glorious inheritance**.”

I like to refer this as a matter of “cardiac ophthalmology”! What does it mean to see with your heart? Well, we do this all the time – it really resonates. This kind of seeing is not just **recognition**, but taking **delight** in something.

Did you know that the striped pattern of some picnic blankets helps to keep away horseflies!? ([READ MORE](#))

The same can occur for Christians. We can be so disoriented when all we can see is the dizzying array of stuff that the world offers to us. However, when we **biblically and correctly** “see with the heart” we can become ever more delighted with our inheritance in Christ.

One thing you could do to foster this delight is to just spend some time in 1:3-14 and just sit with the significance of all these divine blessings. Especially note the description of God as “lavish” in His love for us (vv. 7-8).

Did you know God is a “prodigal” – because He is lavish and extreme in His love for us. Check out Tim Keller’s thoughtful retelling of the story of the Father’s lavish love, which we normally call “[The Prodigal Son](#)”.

3. An ever-developing resource - vv. 19-21

The final desire Paul expressed for the Ephesians was that they experience God’s “**incomparably great power**”. Note carefully – this is for “us who believe.”

What is the nature of the resources available to us? It equals that power God used to resurrect and exalt Jesus Christ! Do you tap into the resources which are yours in Christ?

Dallas Willard writes, "How the disciple lives naturally comes out of who the disciple is."

But if we do not have a grasp of who we are – better, whose we are and the accompanying resources – then we will not live according to our identity."

Willard goes on to say, "The crucial thing is that, as disciples, we have a plan for carrying out the decision we have made to devote ourselves to becoming like our Master and Lord – to increasingly live in the character and power of Christ." ([READ MORE](#))

REFLECT

Can you see with the eyes of your heart?

Can you recognize the riches that belong to you as a follower of Jesus?

If you are not in a relationship with Jesus Christ, today is the time to enter a new life with Him.

Please contact us at info@cornerstoneneighbourhood.com and we will be so pleased to assist you in giving your life to Jesus!

Please take a look at the next page. Perhaps use this as a daily reading guide to review all the riches that are yours as a child of God.

Who I Am In Christ

ORIGINALLY COMPILED BY NEIL ANDERSON

I AM ACCEPTED...

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified (declared righteous).
1 Corinthians 6:17	I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20	I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.
1 Corinthians 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body.
Ephesians 1:3-8	I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.
Colossians 1:13-14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
Colossians 2:9-10	I am complete in Christ.
Hebrews 4:14-16	I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus

I AM SECURE...

Romans 8:1-2	I am free from condemnation.
Romans 8:28	I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.
Romans 8:31-39	I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God.
2 Corinthians 1:21-22	I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
Colossians 3:1-4	I am hidden with Christ in God.
Philippians 1:6	I am confident God will complete His good work in me.
Philippians 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven.
2 Timothy 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.
1 John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I AM SIGNIFICANT...

John 15:5	I am a branch of Jesus, the true vine, and a channel of His life.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
1 Corinthians 3:16	I am God's temple.
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
Ephesians 2:6	I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.
Ephesians 2:10	I am God's workmanship.
Ephesians 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Philippians 4:13	I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.