

Ephesians Part 1...Chapter 1:3
Oct. 16th 2016.

The Bible contains 66 books and those books deal with many topics.

Even though the Bible deals with many topics each book has its own special theme and message.

Genesis is a book about **beginnings**...

Matthew is a book about **the Kingdom of God**...

Galatians is a book about **liberty**...

Joshua is about strength...

Nehemiah is about **determination**...

Philippians is about **joy**...

John is about **transformation**...

Ruth and Esther is about **commitment**...

And **Luke** is about **courage**...

We are now digging into and doing an in depth study on Ephesians and it is a book about the riches.

In Ephesians we see:

The riches of **God's grace**...

The riches of **God's glory**...

The riches of **God's mercy**...

The **unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ**...

And the **riches a person when they are in Christ**.

In Ephesians Paul explains to us what these riches are and how we may draw upon them as a believer and enjoy an effective life.

As a human being we all have desires and most human beings are looking for and in need of certain things.

- We need a sense of value....
- We need a sense of meaning...
- We need a sense of self- acceptance...

As human beings we carry a form of identity in our wallet...

Yet so many times lack a sense of identity in our lives.

As human beings we want a purpose we want somebody to say or we want o feel that we are worth something and that we matter.

Just listen to the radio to the tremendous amount of love songs that are written and sung.

The reason they are written, sung, and listened to is because as people we need to be told we are loved.

Everyone needs to have a sense of value.

Often when a child doesn't receive love or have a sense of value or feel accepted many times they join gangs or clubs to get what they haven't gotten and feel what they haven't felt.

Until a person understands what their meaning is they have no idea of what their value is. Paul gives us the answers to having value, a sense of worth, and purpose in life.

That answer is found in understanding our position in Christ.

Real value, real worth, real joy and real happiness comes when a person is in Christ.

Today I want to cover verse 3 and uncover some of what I just said.

Verse 3...*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

Paul begins this verse with a benediction.

A benediction is an utterance of good wishes...

He opens this verse and he is filled with praise.

Matter fact he opens this verse the way our prayers should be opened up when talking to God.

We should start with praise and not petition.

We should start by thanking Him for what He has already done...

And not rushing in for what we need or want done.

In verse 3 notice he uses the words blessed and blessing.

Then he in this verse alone he speaks about blessings in six ways.

First: He speaks of the blessed One...

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word blessed is the word that we get our word eulogy from.

A eulogy is something that is given at a person's funeral and **it simply means to speak well of someone.**

So to bless means to speak well or good of someone or to say some one is good.

Jesus said in Mt.19:17 *there is none good but God.*

We are to bless God because He is good.

It is His nature to be good.

This means we should continually bless God whatever the situation, whatever the trial or trouble...

Whatever the pain or the struggle we are to bless God in spite of it because God is good in the midst of it all.

Second: Paul says who has blessed us.

Paul here declares God is not only the blessed He is the blesser.

James says...*Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights in whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning.*

Every good thing comes from God as He is the Blesser.

Even when things go bad in life Romans 8:28 says...
Now we know all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose.

God is the Blessor meaning He is the source of all blessings...

God blesses with good things because He is the source of every good thing.

When He created the heavens and the earth He looked at it and said *it is good.*

The creation was good because the Creator is good.

Third: We see the recipients of the Blessing...

Right after the word blessed he identifies who the blessed is...

Us...all those who choose to believe in Him are the blessed.

God is His grace has chosen to bless us.

When we choose to believe in Him we choose to be blessed by Him.

We are blessed beyond all imagination matter fact every day God lavishes us with good things.

When we bless God ***we are speaking good of Him...***

When He blesses us ***He does good to us.***

- ***Our blessing to Him is in words...***
- ***His blessing to us is in deeds.***

Fourth...The scope of our blessings.

Verse 3 says *He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.*

The **word spiritual** comes from the word ***Pnumatikos.***

Pnumatikos is always used in the N.T. to refer to the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned many times in Ephesians because He is the One who channels our riches from the Father, through the Son.

So it means the blessings are attached to the Holy Spirit.

God blesses us with blessings that are dispensed to us through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

2nd Peter 1:3 gives us more information.

According to His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.

His divine power is The Holy Spirit...

This means the Blessor blesses us with all that pertain to life and godliness.
You may say what does that mean?

It means there are things that He has already given us that we tend to ask Him for.

We do not need to ask for love because the Bible says the love of God is shed abroad in your heart.

We do not need to ask God for peace when we are distressed because Jesus said...

My peace I leave with you not as the world gives unto you I give unto do not let your heart be troubled.

We do not need to ask God for joy because John 15 *Jesus said He was going to leave His joy in us that our joy might be full.*

We do not need to pray for strength because Phil. 4:13 *says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

We pray for a lot of things we already have.

We should be praying as James said for wisdom.

Wisdom in how to use what God has blessed us with.

Phil. 1:9 *Paul tells us we have the supply of the Spirit.*

We need wisdom to know and depend on The Holy Spirit's provision.

Unless a person has the wisdom of the Spirit they cannot draw upon the wealth of the Spirit.

Fifth...The sphere of our blessings.

We see that in verse 3 in the words...

In the heavenly places.

We as Christians live here on the earth but our lives are centered in heaven.

Phil. 3:20 *says our citizenship is in heaven...*

The words heavenly places describes the place where Jesus is right now.

So this means as a believer we operate in to two spheres. (sfears)

The human and the divine or the visible and the invisible.

Physically we are on the earth in a human body...

But spiritually we are seated with Jesus in the heavenly sphere.

It is the heavenly sphere that provides the power and direction for the earthly walk.

When we walk in the power of Spirit we receive the blessings of The Spirit.

Sixth... Paul tells us why God does all this for us.

That answer is found in the **last two words** of verse 3...

Because we are... **In Christ.**

When we become a Christian we are placed in a marvelous union with Jesus Christ.

1st Cor.6:17 *says...But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*

Romans 8:17 *says...we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ.*

Both of these verses tell us what is His is ours.

We are in Christ so we are as rich as He is.

All the resources Jesus has we have.

We are in Christ **we are part of Christ.**

We are in Christ so it means **His position is our position.**

His privileges are our privileges.

His possessions are our possessions.

To be in Christ brings personal fulfillment.

People are always looking for personal fulfillment.

They are seeking happiness and satisfaction and identity.

Jesus tells us where that can be found...

He said I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to Me will never hunger and he that believes in Me will never thirst.

There is a hunger and thirst in the human heart which none but Jesus can satisfy and quench.

Every human being has an inner emptiness which only He can fill.

Drugs, alcohol, sex, pornography, position, fame and power cannot fill that inner emptiness...

The only thing that will meet that need is to be in Christ.

To be in Christ brings unity in people's lives.

To be in Christ breaks the barriers of race, nationality and wealth.

To be in Christ brings radical transformation.

Paul said *to be in Christ is to be a new creation.*

New life in Christ results in a new lifestyle.

To be in Christ is to find personal fulfillment, to find unity and to experience radical transformation.

We are blessed...we are rich! Because we are in Christ.