

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS BLESSINGS EPHESIANS 1:3-6

Text: Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 1:7

⁷ ***In whom we have redemption*** through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Introduction:

Illustration:

There was once a rich landowner named Carl and Carl loved to ride around his vast estate on his favorite horse to celebrate his great wealth. One day as he rode he came upon Hans, a poor old tenant farmer who worked some of his land.

Hans was kneeling under a tree and after greeting Carl, he said, *"I was just thanking God for my food."*

Carl replied, *"If that is all I had to eat, I wouldn't feel like giving thanks."*

Hans said, *"I disagree. God has given me everything I need, and I am thankful for it."*

By the way, it is strange you should come by today because I had a dream last night. In my dream a voice told me, 'The richest man in the valley will die tonight.' I don't know what it means, but I thought I ought to tell you."

Carl snorted, *"Dreams are nonsense,"* and he galloped away.

Try as he might, he couldn't get Hans' words out of his head: *"The richest man in the valley will die tonight."*

After all, **HE** was obviously the richest man in the valley—so he invited his doctor to his house that evening and he told the doctor what Hans said.

The doctor examined him and then said, *"Carl, you are as strong and healthy as your favorite horse. There is no way you are going to die tonight."*

Nevertheless, the doctor stayed with Carl all night and to pass the time they played cards.

The next morning the doctor left with Carl apologizing for becoming so upset over the old man's silly dream.

About nine o'clock, a messenger arrived at Carl's door. *"What is it?"* Carl demanded.

The messenger explained, *“It’s about old Hans, your tenant farmer. He died last night in his sleep.”*

I realize the ending of this story was somewhat predictable but I think it illustrates a very important principle: The richest people in the world are not those who own huge estates.

The richest people in the world aren’t those first one thousand people who became millionaires by investing in Facebook before it went public.

The richest people in the world aren’t those rare individuals who win the lottery.

The richest people in the world are those people who tap into the abundant resources that become available to any individual who puts his or her faith in God’s Son.

Paul begins his Ephesian letter by boldly reminding his readers of this priceless principle. He tells them that in Christ they are rich.

Sadly though the Ephesians’ didn’t remember this reminder.

Turn to Revelation 2:1-4

Revelation 2:1-4

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right

hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

Notice with me:

1. WHERE WE STAND (VS. 3-6)

Notice:

A. The Source of Our Blessings (vs. 3)

Ephesians 1:3

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who hath blessed us** with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

The blessing that you and I enjoy come from God.

Note some of the blessings that happen to a person after trusting Christ as their Saviour:

Access to God's Grace.....(Ephesians 2:8)

We are adopted by God....(Ephesians 1:5)

We get an Inheritance....(Ephesians 1:11)

We become a child of God...(John 1:12)

We get a heavenly citizenship...(2 Timothy 4:18)

We are heirs of God, joint heirs with Jesus...(Romans 8:17)

We become a new creature...(2 Corinthians 5:17)

We are reconciled to God....(Romans 5:10)

We are accepted in the Beloved...(Ephesians 1:6)

We have eternal life...(John 10:28)

We have peace with God...(John 14:27)

We became a friend of God....(John 15:15)

We receive imputed righteousness....(Romans 4:6)

We have a mansion in heaven...(John 14:2)

We've been sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

We are forever forgiven.....(Luke 7:48)

We are justified in God's sight.....(Romans 5:1)

We are redeemed....(Revelation 5:9)

We have an advocate with Christ...(1st John 2:1)

We are blessed with spiritual blessings..... (Ephesians 1:3)

A promise given to be able to resist temptation....(1 Corinthians 10:13)

We have been delivered from the power of darkness....(Colossians 1:12-13)

These are just a few of the blessings that we have, and all of these are given to us from God.

Notice not only the Source of Blessing but also:

B. The Scope of Our Blessings (vs. 4-5)

- We have been chosen

Ephesians 1:4-5

⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

There are two words in these verses that we need to define before we move forward.

These words have been taken and twisted into an erroneous philosophy – Calvinism.

Calvinism and its philosophy is spreading today like wildfire.

Most of their doctrine is based on these verses.

Note these three words:

- Chosen (vs. 4)

Ephesians 1:4

*⁴ **According as he hath chosen us** in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

This doesn't mean that some are chosen and others are not for salvation.

God is not respecter of persons and being chosen is going against the nature of God.

If an individual was chosen then the term whosoever will would be a contradiction of Scripture.

This verse explains what a Christian is chosen unto: Holy and without blame before Him in love.

We are chose to be holy and without blame.

Notice this second word:

- Predestined (vs. 5)

Ephesians 1:5

⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Ephesians 1:11

¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Again this is not talking about salvation. Predestinate has to do with the destination you are going in. The only predestination God has prepared for us is that if we do not trust Christ for salvation we will go to Hell,

but when we trusted Christ our destination was changed.

Verse five is talking about that very thing once we accepted Christ we are predestined to be adopted into the family of God.

Verse 11 tells us how great God is, but it says nothing about whether God has given man a will and to what extent he can exercise that will. It says nothing about whether a sinner can believe on Christ savingly. To say that God worketh all things after the counsel of his own will is not contrary to the doctrine that God created man with a will and with the ability to respond to God or to reject God. It is the Calvinist that creates this alleged “problem” and then answers it by his own logic rather than by the plain teaching of Scripture.

Not only have we been chosen but also:

- We Have Been Changed (vs. 4-5)

Ephesians 1:4-5

⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

God has removed our sins (vs. 4b)

God has made us as sons (vs. 5)

Notice not only the Source and Scope of Our Blessing but also:

C. The Significance of Our Blessings (vs.6)

Ephesians 1:6

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

He has made us accepted in the beloved.

To be accepted is one of man's greatest perceived needs.

People go to great lengths to be accepted, but the greatest acceptance that we can receive is that which God gives us.

Close: