

How Rich Are You?

Ephesians 1:1-2 Sunday AM, April 16, 2023

Prelude —Behold the Man **Scripture: Ephesians 1:1–6** (NASB95) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:** ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

And so we start again—another Pauline Epistle. What verses come to mind when you think of Ephesians? From my childhood, I remember Eph. 4:32. Then I remember Eph. 6 w armor of God. Then roles in Ephesians 5. When I got older, I learned about the life of the church in Ephesians 4. In recent years, I’ve been drawn toward the first couple of chapters showing the grace of God in all that is given those who look to Christ to be reconciled to God. But today, we focus on just the first two verses. Let me read them again. **Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:** ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. In a day when people question the reality of anything beyond their own feelings and experiences, when words change their meaning on a whim, and when the eternal seems irrelevant, we meet a man whose life’s mission is tied to his identity with the incarnation of the eternal God. I’m an apostle of Christ Jesus. I’m under His Name and authority and I come with His agenda—and this agenda is TOTALLY in line with the will of God. As we’ve seen in Hebrews, **Jesus IS the radiance of [God’s] glory and the exact representation of His nature.** Paul was secure in his identity and life’s mission because of whose He was. Sing the security of the One “in Christ.”

***Hymn #224 (Red): I Know Whom I Have Believed**

To the saints who are at Ephesus—the called out ones **who are faithful in Christ Jesus**—the ones who are at home with, who belong, who are identified by Christ and who serve Him faithfully. The faithful have faith—whether it is weak or misguided, they trust in, they believe in Christ. Where have your thoughts centered on Christ this week? What about Christ has directed your thoughts, actions, and emotions? Sometimes it happens second nature for those who practice the presence of God, but to the extent you haven’t considered Christ this week, then everything this song says that Christ fulfills, you’ve looked somewhere else. Church, honor God by lifting up Christ as the precious treasure He is, our hope in life and death!

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Christ Our Hope in Life and Death *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: As We Read Your Holy Word**

Scripture: Psalm 71:1–24 (NASB95) In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be ashamed. ² In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; Incline Your ear to me and save me. ³ Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come; You have given commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress. ⁴ Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, Out of the grasp of the wrongdoer and ruthless man, ⁵ For You are my hope; O Lord God, *You are my confidence from my youth.* ⁶ By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother’s womb; My praise is continually of You. ⁷ I have become a marvel to many, For You are my strong refuge. ⁸ My mouth is filled with Your praise And with Your glory all day long. ⁹ Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails. ¹⁰ For my enemies have spoken against me; And those who watch for my life have consulted together, ¹¹ Saying, “God has forsaken him; Pursue and seize him, for there is no one to deliver.” ¹² O God, do not be far from me; O my God, hasten to my help! ¹³ Let those who are adversaries of my soul be ashamed and consumed; Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor, who seek to injure me. ¹⁴ But as for me, I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more. ¹⁵ My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And of Your salvation all day long; For I do not know the sum of them. ¹⁶ I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone. ¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸ And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come. ¹⁹ For Your righteousness, O God, *reaches* to the heavens, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You? ²⁰ You who have shown me many troubles and distresses Will revive me again, And will bring me up again from the depths of the earth. ²¹ May You increase my greatness And turn to comfort me. ²² I will also praise You with a harp, *Even Your truth, O my God; To You I will sing praises with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.* ²³ My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You; And my soul, which You have redeemed. ²⁴ My tongue also will utter Your righteousness all day long; For they are ashamed, for they are humiliated who seek my hurt.

Offering: *Doxology:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who are faithful in Christ are in the path of receiving grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. God showers good things, needed provision and protection and order in a world of chaos. That’s who He is! That’s what He does. Therefore, it is natural for the psalmist to say, ⁵ **For You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth.** ⁶ **By You I have been sustained from my birth; You are He who took me from my mother’s womb; My praise is continually of You.** ⁷ **I have become a marvel to many, For You are my strong refuge.** ⁸ **My mouth is filled with Your praise And with Your glory all day long.** This looking to God for His grace and peace is not just a posture for church worship, but for all of life. You LIVE looking to Him—study His Word, Ask for His Spirit’s opening it and applying it to your life, test it among the community of the saints, but above all, live and tell of what He is like and what He has done, and then looking for those same kinds of things around you. The church from its inception is responsible to pass the promises.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Pass the Promise**

You may be seated. Grace to you & peace from God. The psalmist found this from God right in the middle of life. ¹² O God, do not be far from me; O my God, hasten to my help! ¹³ Let those who are adversaries of my soul be ashamed and consumed; Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor, who seek to injure me. ¹⁴ But as for me, I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more. ¹⁵ My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And of Your salvation all day long; For I do not know the sum of them. ¹⁶ I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone. ¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸ And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come. ¹⁹ For Your righteousness, O God, *reaches* to the heavens, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You? ²⁰ You who have shown me many troubles and distresses Will revive me again, And will bring me up again from the depths of the earth. **Don’t live looking for another deliverer, for other goodness.** This hymn highlights the security and love from which Paul ministers. Contemplate this relationship God initiates and secures as pastor preaches.

***Hymn #490: I Am His and He Is Mine**

Message: How Rich Are You? Ephesians 1:1-2

***Hymn #352: A Child of the King *Prayer**