

**“God Is Able”**  
*Gleanings From the Book of Ephesians*  
Ephesians 3:20

**Lesson 1**  
**Our Riches in Christ**

The Apostle Paul wrote the Epistle to the Ephesians while imprisoned in Rome. He had a special place in his heart for the Ephesian church as he had stayed there longer than any other place during his missionary journeys. Because of the time Paul had spent teaching the Word of God to the people of Ephesus, he could write the deep truths we find in this Epistle. He wanted to encourage and strengthen them in their Christian walk. May this Epistle do the same for us.

**Read Ephesians 1:1-14.**

1. In verse 1, how does Paul describe himself?
  - a. Fill in the blank below describing yourself.  
  

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by the will of God.
2. In verse 1, to whom is Paul referring when he addresses this letter to the “*saints*” and the “*faithful in Christ Jesus*”?
3. Who should we thank for all our “*spiritual blessings*” (verse 3)?
  - a. When you pray, do you find yourself requesting spiritual blessings or are you more concerned with requests regarding the cares of the

- b. Read through verses 4-14 and list all the spiritual blessings you find in these verses.
- c. Glance back over the list and take a moment to thank Him for all He has done for you. Record just one item from the list that you are grateful for and share why.

4. According to verse 4, when did God plan our salvation?

- a. What was God's purpose in doing this?
  - b. Verses 4 and 5 tell us that God *chose* us and *predestined* us. Does that mean we didn't have any choice in the matter?
  - c. How would you explain this to an unbeliever who says she isn't a Christian because God didn't choose her?
5. Describe the glorious blessing found in verse 5.
- a. What was God's motivation in blessing us so tremendously?
  - b. What does it mean to you that it brings *pleasure* to God to do these things?
6. Verse 6 says we are "*accepted in the Beloved.*" Explain what it means when Paul says that it is by the glory of His grace that we are accepted.



- b. According to 1 Corinthians 2:10, how does God reveal His mysteries?
  - c. Can unbelievers understand the things of God? (1 Corinthians 2:14)
9. In these first few verses of Ephesians we have seen God as our great Benefactor, we have seen the believer as the beneficiary, and now, in verses 13 and 14, we see the Holy Spirit as the One who is the Guarantor of all that God has declared for us. According to verse 13, what happens to us once we believe?
- a. What do the following verses teach about this?
    - 2 Corinthians 1:22
    - 2 Timothy 2:19
  - b. How is the Holy Spirit described in Ephesians 1:14?
  - c. How would you describe a *guarantee*?

- d. How long will the Holy Spirit be a *guarantee of our inheritance*?
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- 10. Notice the last phrase of verse 14. This is the third time Paul has used this phrase (verses 6 and 12). What is the phrase?
    - a. This would indicate that the response God is looking for from us is *praise*. How does this personally challenge you to live your life right now?

Share one thing from this lesson that has impacted you.





