

Our Riches in Christ

Ephesians 1:18-23

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

Eyes-inward vision, *the faculty of spiritual perception* ; *heart*-center of being, includes thoughts & appetites-*'as man thinks in heart so is he'* Only God can open us to spiritual things if not we remain blind. **Nico Jn 3** *The hearing ear & the seeing eye the Lord has made both of them Pr 20:12 Peter* *Thou art the Christ...flesh and blood not reveal but My Father in heaven..*

Nothing greater than to have God talk to you about your life & personal relationship w/ Him & His eternal future for you.

Hope of His calling – *Looking for the blessed hope & the appearing of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ Titus 2:13*

One of our greatest needs is to know who we are, why we are here, what is my purpose in life, what is my value to God and others. *And does life have a goal, a finish line besides death-is there hope for a future.* God says yes to all of these. *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 1Jn 3:2*

1 Cor 2:9,10 *But just as it is written, 'Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.' For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 1 Pet 2:9* *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; Knowing God & telling others Gal 4:6-7* *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. Not just friendly terms but close--intimate*

What God has done is like driving old beat up Chevy Nova, 4 cl, oil leak, rain comes in-carpet perpetually stinks, no air-conditioning, windows don't roll down, gas gauge broken, tires bald, no power steering, pump brakes to stop, stick shift, have to push to start, apply brakes car shakes, body rusted out, squeaks & rattles, radio doesn't work, one head light out—other points skyward, overheats.....etc **This is your life**

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Owner of local car dealership drives up Brand new Masirate Lavante SUV 6 cyl all power, your favorite color—Nova was blue, sun turned it aqua, now oxidized dull grayish color—**Now would you give up the old to get the new?**

Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We've traded our old life for a new life in Christ Jesus. We gave God the **pink slip**, ownership papers, to the old & He has signed our name on the dotted line in the **Lambs book of life**-now heirs w/ Christ to riches of God.

Not only do we need our spiritual eyes open to the great riches we have in Christ but also what riches we are **to** Christ

Matt 13:44-46 "The kingdom of heaven is like a **treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.**

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one **pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it. We are the treasure in the field & we are the pearl of great price—God gave all that He had, His son Jesus Christ to purchase us.**

19 and what is the **surpassing greatness of His **power** toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might **20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**

Superabundant power--indwelling strength--More than we need **or** use. A new house needs to be hooked up to HECO power (**superabundant for needs of house**) – **Surfboard 3 phase squirrel-cage blower**-Jesus the master power distributor, chief engineer regulating & sending power needed. **Power dunamis** dynamite-God supplies His power to access His promises.

But it is possible to have great wealth & power to access it but never benefit by it. You can be rich & yet live like a pauper. **Some are rich and simply ignorant of that fact--they don't know it.**

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Maybe it got thrown out in the trash or put in a pile of receipts & hidden away, maybe used as a bookmark or sitting in the glove box or tucked away in an item of clothing stored in attic. But because of neglect or forgetfulness or busyness or couldn't believe it happen to me--they didn't check their number & the 180 day window is up & the ticket is expired so you don't get the \$14 million Super Lotto Plus jackpot. Ticket sold at a Mini Mart in Perry County, Ohio & went unclaimed, Tuesday was the deadline. Previous record for unclaimed prize was Nov 2000 when \$9M winning Lotto ticket expired

Whether a **rich pauper** or **neglectful lottery winner**—neither one benefited by the riches available to them. **So** in the book of Ephesians, we are given a glimpse of the vast wealth the child of God has access to.

We are **heirs** & have the wealth of heaven at our disposal. Paul is going to tell us just how rich we are---**but** unfortunately many Christians live like they are spiritually destitute. Having the wealth of heaven yet going around as beggars, living below their privilege. Blind to our inheritance.

Blind man healed Jn 9 at the same time his spiritual eyes opened He saw Jesus as Man – prophet – Lord-worshiped Him It is Gods prerogative to open or close a persons' spiritual perception. **Jn 9:40,41** "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. Say 'know spirituals w/o Jesus' **Matt 11:25..Jesus, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven & earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise & prudent and have revealed them to babes**

After Jesus rose His disciples in a state of shock & disbelief--two traveling on road to Emmaus, unresponsive to reports Jesus had risen. Jesus Joined in their journey--His identity hidden until finally he **opened** their eyes. It is God's choice to give us insight of Himself and His plans for us.

Moses-Exod 33:13 "Now therefore, I pray Thee, if I have found favor in Thy sight, let me know Thy ways, that I may know Thee, so that I may find favor in Thy sight.

Ps 119:18 **open** my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from your law.

Paul in Philippi at riverside began speaking **Acts 16:14** **A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord **opened** her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**

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King of Syria at war w/ King of Israel.....surrounded by enemy **2Ki 6:17** *Then Elisha prayed and said, ‘O Lord, I pray, **open** his eyes that he may see. ‘And the Lord **opened** the servant’s eyes and he saw and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha.*

John 15:15 *‘No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; But I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have **made known** to you.*

Only God can open spiritual eyes to know the riches we have in Christ. A spiritual work requires spiritual means to see clearly...**God open!**

Our riches are unlimited, we can never drain heaven of them. As the **Osprey** primarily feeds on **fish**-“fish hawk” or “sea hawk.” **will never deplete the food supply around the Hawaiian Islands or in the Pacific ocean** so too a Christian will never exhaust God’s riches.

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection **under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

Our riches are under attack--we have enemies who seek to take what God has given. **Eph 6:12** We are no match but God is—Jesus declared **“It is finished”** **Jn 19:30** At that point all under His feet—victory/enemy **Josh 10:24** Defeat & complete subjection, ruler-ship by the one whose feet is on them.

What we lost thru Adam **‘thru one man sin entered the world & death thru sin & death spread to all because all sinned’**. Originally God gave **Trust Deed** of earth to Adam **1:28 ‘be fruitful & multiply & fill the earth & subdue it & rule over...’**. **Eat/don’t eat** **Disobeyed** God & **obeyed** Satan—handed **Trust Deed** of earth over—Satan **god of this world, prince of the power of the air working in children of disobedience**. On cross Jesus redeemed back earth & those in it. We see Him take back the Trust Deed of earth.

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Rev 5:1-10 He redeemed it paid in blood—waiting to take full possession of what He purchased. **Heb 2:8 THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.**” *For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.*

Why wait? **2Pet 3:2** Proof of the :19 *Superabundant or surpassing greatness of His power.* That power comes by the resurrection of Jesus. Power often measured by creation—Hurricanes, Volcanoes, Waves—they come and go—

Only one event never before never since—Jesus resurrection--begotten from the dead—1st fruits & we follow. No enemy can stop or hinder.

Jesus is the head we are the body—the head instructs the body where it needs to go. As Jesus ascended & seated right hand so He will bring us home to be w/ Him...*Let not heart be troubled....Jn 14*