

Ephesians

Week 05 – God’s Riches

Transition: Last week we discussed Paul’s prayer (in chapter 1) for the people of the church in Ephesus. In short, Paul first thanked the Father for their faith and love and then he let them know that he regularly prayed that they would know (be enlightened to) the riches of their glorious inheritance as children of God and the immeasurable greatness of His power in their lives. For a child of God, the more we grow in these areas, the more we will be like the Father.

Context: This week we are discussing the first topic that Paul addresses in the body of his letter, which is centered on the Ephesians’ identity as believers in Jesus. Paul begins by speaking about their old life (before they trusted in Jesus), then he speaks of what God did for them to save them, and then he addresses the future—that God is not merely interested in saving people from His wrath, but desires for each one to discover (and do) His purpose for them.

Opening Questions:

- When did the weight/gravity of your own sin first become real to you? What happened? How did you deal with it?
- What is the difference between mercy and grace? When has someone shown you great mercy? ...great grace? How did it affect you?

Scripture/Storying: Ephesians 2:1-10

Discipleship Questions:

- How do you sum up Paul’s main point in this passage?
- What are the different expressions that Paul uses to describe life before salvation (v1-3), and what do they mean? Why do you think Paul is so descriptive here?
- Why is God merciful to sinners (v4-5a)? How does He reveal that He is “rich in mercy” to them? What are some ways this reality could impact how a believer ought to live?
- How are the “immeasurable riches of His grace” revealed (v5b-9)? In what ways has God lavished His grace on you (see 1:7-10 also)? Why does Paul call it kindness? What are some fitting/appropriate responses to His grace?
- Why do you think Paul mentions that God is rich in both mercy and grace? How does this impact you personally?
- Tell the story of how you were saved by Jesus Christ. (Be brief so others can share too.)
- What is the connection between v10 and v1-9? What “good works” are evident in your walk with Christ?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to today’s discussion?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for John Wright (our Missions Minister) and Mark Dresbach (one of our Elders) who are traveling to England and Africa. Please pray for...

- Wisdom and understanding of God’s direction for how Providence can be involved in proclaiming God’s name in the areas they’ll be visiting.
- That those to whom they minister will experience the immeasurable riches of God’s mercy and grace.
- Safe travels.