

# Praising His Glory: The Wonder of Unmerited Riches

## I. Introduction

- A. Ephesians Summary Statement: The reconciling wisdom of God has been gloriously displayed in Christ calling us to walk by grace in the peace He has given us
- B. Review from last time in Ephesians:
  - 1. The beginning of Ephesians starts with one extraordinarily long sentence extoling the wisdom and glory of God
  - 2. Paul dives right into His purpose calling us to wonder at the riches of God's glory displayed in Christ toward us, and this is one of the places where Paul just turns on the firehose and aims it at us and calls us to soak it all in
  - 3. But, because this sentences is so long
    - a. Praising His Glory: The Wonder of Sovereign Redemption (Ephesians 1:3-10) - God has displayed His glory (in Christ, in grace toward us, through salvation), which calls us to praise His glory forever.
    - b. Praising His Glory: The Wonder of Unmerited Riches (Ephesians 1:11-14)
- C. Read Ephesians 1:11-14
- D. Proposition: If we have obtained an inheritance completely by God's gracious choice then our lives ought to be devoted to reveling in His glory and displaying it to the world
  - 1. We have obtained and inheritance!
  - 2. We have all obtained the same inheritance
  - 3. We all obtained the inheritance in the same way
  - 4. Our inheritance calls us all to the same response

## II. We have obtained an inheritance

- ① A. Ephesians 1:11
- ③ B. This is a continuation of the building recitation of God's glorious grace
- C. This is a fulfillment of the Old Testament promise
  - ① 1. Numbers 26:51-56 - *This was the list of the people of Israel, 601,730. The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Among these the land shall be divided for inheritance according to the number of names. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance in proportion to its list. But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit. Their inheritance shall be divided according to lot between the larger and the smaller."*
  - ② 2. Joshua 11:23 - *So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.*
  - ① 3. Lamentations 5:1-2 - *Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace! Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners.*
  - ① 4. Ezekiel 47:13-14 - *Thus says the Lord GOD: "This is the boundary by which you shall divide the land for inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph shall have two portions. And you shall divide equally what I swore to give to your fathers. This land shall fall to you as your inheritance.*
  - ① 5. Ephesians 1:11 - *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*
  - ② 6. Hebrews 9:15-17 - *Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.*

## III. We have all obtained the same inheritance

- ✱① A. Ephesians 1:11-14
- B. This builds on the phrase before in Ephesians 1:10 - *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

C. This becomes the theme of Ephesians

1. Ephesians 2:1-3 - *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience --- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
2. Ephesians 2:17-18 - *And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.*
3. Ephesians 3:6 - *This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*
4. Ephesians 4:1-6 - *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit---just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call --- one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

#### IV. We all obtained the inheritance in the same way

✘✘A. Ephesians 1:11-14 (explain sealed)

✘③B. Chosen By God, won by Christ, sealed by the Spirit, eternity past, enacted in time, to eternity future (side note: we don't have our full inheritance yet (not your best life now) ... but we have a real start, a down payment - the fellowship we share with the Spirit is just a taste, but a real taste of the joy we will share in fellowship with God forever - this is our inheritance)

**Kids' Question:** Who accomplishes salvation from beginning to end?  
God, in Christ, through His Spirit

C. To experience the Spirit's work of applying salvation is what Paul desires throughout Ephesians

- Ephesians 1:17 - the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
- Ephesians 2:18 - access in one Spirit to the Father
- Ephesians 2:22 - built into a dwelling by the Spirit
- Ephesians 3:5 - the mystery revealed by the Spirit
- Ephesians 3:16 - strengthened in faith by the Spirit
- Ephesians 4:3 - eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit
- Ephesians 4:30 - do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God
- Ephesians 5:18 - do not be drunk: be filled with the Spirit!
- Ephesians 5:19 - sing songs of the Spirit
- Ephesians 6:17 - wield the sword of the Spirit
- Ephesians 6:18 - pray at all times in the Spirit

The work of the Spirit in our lives is how we experience the abundance of salvation, so at the height of his exultation in God's salvation Paul introduces the Spirit and then through the book He calls us to experience the joys of the work of the Spirit - our passage this morning calls us to long for the Spirit so that we will be ready to live in the Spirit as we read the rest of the book

#### V. Our inheritance calls us all to live for the same thing

①✘A. Ephesians 1:11-14 - To the praise of His glory

B. Proposition: If we have obtained an inheritance completely by God's gracious choice then our lives ought to be devoted to reveling in His glory and displaying it to the world;  
Our lives ought to be devoted to worship, to praise, to enjoying the God who has chosen us  
This is both the right response to God's gift, but also it is the enjoyment of the gift itself - our inheritance is to know God, to dwell in His presence and experience His glory - if we want that inheritance, we will seek to enjoy the down payment now, we will rejoice in who He is which will overflow out of us in praise

**Kids' Question:** What is the purpose of salvation?  
To bring praise to God