

Real Church in Real Time: Our Riches in Christ

Greg Wendschlag October 2, 2022

About Ephesus

- Wealthy harbor city on the west coast of modern-day Turkey. Colonized by the Athenians.
- Capital of Roman province of Asia; second only to Rome.
- Famous temple consecrated to Artemis (Diana) – Acts 19:23-41
- Largest theater in the Hellenic world – seated over 50,000

Paul's relationship with the Ephesians

- A.D. 51 – Paul's first visit - Acts 18:18-21
- A.D. 54-57 – Paul's second visit lasts for 3 years/Wrote 1 Corinthians. - Acts 19
- A.D. 58 – about 30 miles south he bids farewell to the leaders of Ephesian. Acts 20:18-35
- A.D. 63 - at the end of Paul's life exhorts Timothy to stay in Ephesus. 1 Tim. 1:3
- Ephesus one of the 7 churches in Rev. 2-3. Lost first love.
- The Apostle John lived here in his last years. Possibly buried here.

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing Christ.”
Eph. 1:1-3

Introduction – 1:1-2

- Author – Paul
- An apostle – one sent forth with a purpose from a higher authority
- By the will of God – you can't minister out of your own will
- To the saints of Ephesus - called apart people
- Grace and Peace – most common salutation of Paul

Our Riches in Christ – 1:3

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing Christ.” Vs 3

Two realms: Physical and Spiritual

- Earthly and Heavenly
- Visible and Invisible
- Finite and Infinite
- Natural and Supernatural

Spiritual blessing: The ability to see earthly things in the light of the spiritual heavenly realm.

Examples of Spiritual Blessings

1. You have joy, no matter the chaos happening around you.
2. You have contentment, no matter how stressful life is.
3. You have love, no matter how hateful people are.
4. You have salvation, an eternal promise through Jesus Christ.

“Lord Jesus, I admit I am far from you, and I need a savior of my soul. Today I surrender my life to you. I want to serve you as Lord and learn to love you as my heavenly Father. Thank you for loving me so much that you gave your life on the cross to take away my sin. I accept your love and want to follow you from this day forward.”