

# The Wealth of the Believer

## Outline:

doctrine – duty  
wealth – walk – warfare

**Long sentences:** 1:3-14    1:15-23    2:1-7    3:1-13  
                                 3:14-19    4:1-7    4:11-16    6:14-20

## Ephesians 1: Spiritual blessings in the heavenly places

### The Doxology

- ▶ Father – chosen
- ▶ Son – redeemed
- ▶ Spirit – sealed

### Prayer #1

- ▶ Thanksgiving to God
- ▶ Requests – to know:
  - the hope of His calling
  - riches of glory of His inheritance in the saints
  - exceeding greatness of His power
- ▶ Exaltation of Christ

## Ephesians 2: The formation of the church

Personal salvation – grace through faith to good works

Corporate salvation – household of God

## Three responses by Paul

A prayer – Ephesians 3

A call to walk worthy – Ephesians 4:1-6:9

A call to stand – Ephesians 6:10-20

## Ephesians 3: The Eternal Purpose of God

A digression

A prayer

# THE CHURCH AND THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD

## “Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles”

Prisoner of Jesus Christ

Prisoner for the Gentiles

A digression (3:2-13)

### Paul's ministry

#### 1. The dispensation

- ▶ Greek – oikonomia – “economia”
- ▶ dispensation or stewardship
- ▶ a commission
- ▶ a religious or political system prevailing at a particular time
- ▶ the dispensation of the grace of God for the Gentiles

#### 2. The revelation

- ▶ special revelation to Paul
- ▶ “a mystery”

#### 3. The mystery

- ▶ Gentiles are fellow heirs
- ▶ Gentiles are of the same body
- ▶ Gentiles are partakers of His promise in Christ

#### 4. The ministry

- ▶ A gift of the grace of God
- ▶ Effective working of His power
- ▶ Unworthy minister
- ▶ Preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ
- ▶ Eternal purpose of God
  - Display His *Manifold* wisdom
  - Display to principalities and powers
  - The display is in Christ

#### 5. The admonition

- ▶ Do not lose heart
- ▶ Paul's tribulation is glory for the Gentiles

# THE CHURCH AND THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD

## For this reason . . .

The wealth – all spiritual blessings in heavenly places.

Our union with Christ

Built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit

## Prayer #2

Father of Lord Jesus Christ

- ▶ An essential distinctive
- ▶ Whole family in heaven and earth
- ▶ The riches of His glory

Requests:

- ▶ Holy Spirit – Strength/enablement
- ▶ Christ – indwelling by faith; love
- ▶ God – fullness

Benediction

- ▶ God's omnipotence
- ▶ God's omniscience
- ▶ God's glory
- ▶ Now to Him – compare with Romans 11:33-36
- ▶ In the Church – by Christ Jesus – forever