

God's Rich Grace.

Eph. 1:3 – 7

Let us note as we look at this passage of scripture that Paul is writing to a church, not to the Nation of Israel. Let us also note that Paul is writing to this church about God's love, mercy, and grace to this church and to us here in this church. And please also note that God is our Father as well as the Father of many Jews. Paul said "...*God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*" V. 3 In Christ Jesus means these blessings of God is for those who are saved in Christ Jesus. So, if you are saved this morning, these are God's blessings for you, and myself. And please note that our blessings are not limited, that they include all "*all spiritual blessings in heavenly places*". Some Christians may not understand this, but this word "grace" is one of the most important words in the entire bible. And the more we learn about God's 'Amazing Grace' the more we will understand just how blessed we are. Paul wrote in verse 7 "*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*" our salvation, our forgiveness, and our redemption altogether is not only *by grace but the riches of His grace*. The word "riches" means – the wealth or fullness of God's grace. Brother Oscar Mink wrote, "*Who can measure the riches of God's grace? The riches of God's grace is the-exact proportion of distance that Our sins have been removed from us. God said "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb, 10:17). And what God has forgiven and forgotten we should forget.*" Who could ever measure how strong God's grace is that forgave not just one sinner, but all that are going to be saved? This would take an unimaginable measuring-stick.

So, let's take a few minutes to look at these words "*the riches of His grace.*"

A. This richness of grace starts with God's love for His Son.

1. God said of Jesus in **Matthew 3:17** "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The word "beloved" means "dear" Son. This shows the Lord of the Father toward Jesus, both as the Son of God and the Son of Mary.
 - a. God the Father loved the Son of Mary so much that He by grace sent His as a sacrifice for us who are or are going to be redeemed.

- b. In this one single event God showed His love toward us, that He sent His very own Son to redeem us.
 - c. God actually did give His very best for our redemption, God could not have given a greater sacrifice.
2. God said in Ephesians 1:14 *“Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”*
- a. The word “earnest” means - "earnest-money" that it cost the Father to purchase all the slaves of sin, to be free by His purchase.
 - b. God put up the earnest money, and the Holy Spirit delivered us to Christ when the final payment was made at Calvary, when Jesus said, *“It is finished”*. John 19:30.
 - c. This is the riches of God’s grace for us.
- B. It is in this that we were *“made us accepted in the beloved”*. Eph. 1:6
- 1. This shows us that *“riches of His grace*. Eph. 1:6 That is the riches in God’s grace *“made us accepted in the beloved”*. – Because there is no other acceptance. **John 3:18** *“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*
 - 2. This is the only path, *“he hath made us accepted”* and that acceptance is *“in the beloved”*. Which is the **richness** of God’s grace.
 - 3. This grace is given to us because, *“he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”* Eph. 1:4
 - a. We need to understand the power of God’s grace that permitted and caused God to save us.
 - b. Grace means He wanted to, it means it was His choice. Nothing or no one causes God to act.
 - c. Think of Mary who carried and gave birth to Jesus. **Luke 1:28** *“And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, **thou that art highly favoured**, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”* Means - to grace, that is, indue with special honor – This Greek word for highly favored is only used in two places in the bible, here and Eph. 1:6 *“he hath made us accepted”*. The same grace God had with Mary; He has with all His children.
 - 4. It is because He hath blessed us. Eph. 1:3

- a. God used this special grace to bless Mary and to bless us with salvation. The result of that blessing is, *“he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world”*. Eph. 1:3
 - b. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** *“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:”* Three things God’s grace has given us here.
 - c. We see this same act of grace in **2 Timothy 1:9 - 10** *“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (10) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:”* abolished means - to be rendered entirely idle or useless.
- C. This grace is our redemption, *“the redemption of the purchased possession”* Eph 1:14
- 1. Remember the word “redemption” means The Believers salvation was “paid in full” God purchased us from the slave market of Satan and sin, for His prize possession.
 - 2. To do this everything must have been executed perfectly. God did not just save us; He made a detailed plan to save us. This plan is detailed in Eph. 1
 - a. He chose us.
 - b. He blessed us in Christ Jesus.
 - c. He chose redemption through Jesus.
 - d. He predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself.
 - e. He hath made us accepted in the beloved.
 - f. He elected that our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.
 - g. Everything was he hath purposed in himself.
 - h. He predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.
 - i. He sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.
 - j. He purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
 - k. There is more, I just could not list it all.
- D. So, how can a sinner be saved?

1. This is how, but to us it is believing God through Jesus Christ redemption.
2. **Acts 17:30** “*And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*” The word “*commandeth*” God orders, is not God oprdained. “Many are called but few are chosen”. Matt. 22:14
3. Sin is not just forgiven; it is pardoned through God’s plan of forgiveness.
4. The power of sin must be removed from the sinner. Therefore, God has killed it.
5. Salvation is not earned, it is not just a choice, it is an expensive gift. **Romans 6:22 - 23** “*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. (23) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*