

Live Rich in Christ Ephesians 1:15-23

We are rich, but we often live as if we are poor. We allow life's circumstances to make us feel hopeless, worthless and weak, when in fact, because of God's work through His Son we have everlasting hope, value and strength. So let's learn to live rich in Christ!

“For this reason”

- Every spiritual blessing in Christ; Father (chosen), Son (redeemed), Spirit (sealed)
- Paul’s prayer: what you possess you will experience to ever greater depths

Paul makes an assumption: everyone he is writing to is already in the family of God

- Eph 1:18. “since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened”
- 2 Cor 4:4, 6; “recreation” compared to creation

Review the background:

- 3rd largest city Empire; commerce; cosmopolitan; immoral, idolatrous, opposed to Christians
- Easy for believers in Ephesus to fall into despair, insecurity, inferiority, weakness

Paul prays that they would understand and experience more and more of the riches they have through what God has done in Jesus Christ.

1. When we feel weary/despairing, we have hope – Eph 1:17-18a

- Hope in this world = wishful longing
- Biblical hope = confident expectation - Romans 8:20-25; 1 Thess 4:13-18.
- Eph 1:18. Basis of hope = His calling. Jesus changed your identity and thus your destiny
- Take a moment and concentrate on this truth – 1 Peter 1:13

2. When we feel worthless, we have value – 1:18

- Whose inheritance? God’s inheritance. Ephesians 1:11, 14; Deut 7:6; 1 Pet 2:9
- Your value is determined by the price someone was willing to pay to get you for Himself
- 1 Peter 1:18-19

3. When we feel weak, we have power – 1:19-23

- How do we know this is true?
- Raised – 1:20a
- Seated – 1:20b
- Subjected all powers – 1:21-22a; Col 2:15
- Gave Him to the Church – 1:22b-23
 - “the fullness of the One (Christ) being completely filled (by the Father’s power)”
- Ephesians 3:20-21
 - We can’t change everything that is broken, but Jesus will some day
 - We can’t change everything, but we can be changed and radiate Jesus

Application: Pray together for a series of requests

Pray for our church; Pray for Harvey victims; Pray for international students; Pray for our community and the campus; Pray for the Church in Bryan/College Station