

# TRUTH – A STUDY IN EPHESIANS

## PART 3 – EPHESIANS 1:15-23

**FOUNDATIONAL TEXT**

**John 1:16-17 AMP** - *For out of His fullness (abundance) we have **all received** [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, **grace** (unearned, undeserved favour and spiritual blessing) and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.*

**KEY VERSE: 1:3** - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

RECAP
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1.	<b>Author</b> – Paul, the apostle
2.	<b>Assembly</b> – Saints, faithful in Christ
3.	<b>Adoration/Worship</b> - Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ
4.	<b>Doxology</b> –

<b>He</b> has blessed us <b>Every</b> spiritual blessing In the <b>heavenly realms</b>	<i>Source</i> <i>Scope</i> <i>Sphere</i>
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We delved into the glorious realities of our great God and Saviour – <b>Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</b>
<b>Father</b> – Chosen us, adopted us and accepted us.
<b>Son</b> – Redeemed us, forgiving us, revealed God’s plan for us and made us into an inheritance.
<b>Spirit</b> – Sealed us, He is our deposit -guaranteeing our inheritance.

**How incredibly blessed and spiritually rich we are in Christ!**

5.	Activation verses 15-23 - Prayer for enlightenment
v15	<i>Therefore, I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,</i>
v16	<i>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.</i>
v17	<i>I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,</i>
v18	<i>the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,</i>
v19	<i>and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power</i>
v20	<i>which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,</i>
v21	<i>far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.</i>
v22	<i>And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things for the church,</i>
v23	<i>which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.</i>

- We are discovering that as Children of God, we were born rich/blessed when we trusted in Christ.
- But this is not enough, for we must grow in our understanding of our riches if we are ever going to use them and live in them for the glory of God.
- Too many Christians have never taken the time to find out the vast spiritual wealth that the Father has laid up for us in the spiritual realm through Christ JESUS.
- Paul's desire for the Ephesians was to understand what great wealth they had in Christ. Paul knew of their faith and love and in this he rejoiced.
- **The Christian life has two dimensions:** faith toward God and love towards people and you cannot separate the two.
- Notice Paul doesn't pray for material things – His emphasis was on spiritual perception and real Christian character.
- **He did not ask God to give them what they did not have, but rather prayed that God would reveal to them what they already had.**

<b>OUTLINE – Because of who God is and what He has done – we have access to Him</b>		
<b>a.</b>	<b><i>In the knowledge of HIM</i></b>	<b>Verse 17</b>
	<p><b>EPIGENOSIS</b>– recognition, acknowledgment, precise and correct knowledge</p> <p><b>A knowing through relationship and experience</b>            Example Becoming a father – read books, classes, study – but until I became a father, it was just theory, information (gnosis – just knowledge)– I didn’t have correct or precise knowledge through relationship or experience (<b><i>epigenosis</i></b>)</p> <p><i>Revelation that produces transformation</i></p> <p>Example: The Lord is my Shepherd (we quote that) – but until we go to Him and live in it – it remains theory</p>	
	<p><b>Colossians 3:9-10 - Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.</b></p> <p>Sin has destroyed us, broken us, smashed to pieces the image of God on the inside of us</p> <p>Now, through Christ, we are being put back together, restored <b>BACK TO BETTER THAN</b> original condition as sons bearing the image of their Father, their Creator.</p> <p><b>Simply</b> – God reveals Himself to us, as we pray, cry out, lean into His Spirit for wisdom and revelation – for us, for others, the church – all the saints.</p> <p><i>No shortcuts – prayer works</i></p> <p><i>Every major move of God started with prayer- not preaching not encounter nights, not outreach, not missions. PRAYER, PRAYER, PRAYER</i></p> <p>We cannot not educate, train or coerce people into the true character of God – we humbly come to Him AND HE reveals Himself to us.</p> <p>We present truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth – and trust the Holy Spirit – the great Revealer – to lead people into all truth.</p>	
	<p><b>To know Him and make Him known</b> – that is our Mission Statement</p> <p>This is it – through prayer and relationship – we know him</p> <p><b>Example: Revelation 2:1-7 – WARNING (40 A.D., VISITS, 60 A.D. EPHESUS, TIMOTHY, 90 A.D.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You have forsaken your first love, Repent and do the things you did at first</li> <li>▪ If you do not repent, I will remove the lampstand</li> </ul> <p><i>Jesus wants to be the first in your life – that is it. It’s an incredible privilege.</i></p> <p><i>Let’s not waste it, get distracted, get caught up in worldly passions</i></p>	

b.	<b><i>Eyes of your heart/understanding enlightened</i></b>	<b>Verse 18a</b>
	<p><i>Literally – heart means KARDIA (Cardiac)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life.</li> <li>▪ The seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites.</li> <li>▪ Correct and vital understanding of God, floods your inner being with glorious light</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Light brings creativity, colour, warmth, protection, energy and perspective</i></b></p>	
c.	<b><i>The hope of your calling</i></b>	<b>Verse 18b</b>
	<p>Live out who you are, both now and for eternity!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Called</b> – sons, follower of Christ, disciple, witnesses, to abide, fruitful branch, live ready, expectant and prepared for His return</li> <li>▪ <b>For now</b> – I can change, I can grow, I can be used by you, I can have victory over sin, I can be more like Christ, I can walk in obedience, I can crucify the flesh, I can walk in love, I can walk in forgiveness, I can complete the assignment God has given me, I can walk in wisdom, I CAN WALK IN FAITH –</li> </ul> <p><b>HOW? – The hope of my calling – God has called me/us to live that way</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 4:13</b> - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.</p> <p>Filled to overflowing with hope</p>	
d.	<b><i>The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints</i></b>	<b>Verse 18c</b>
	<p>Live in what you have access to, both now and for eternity!</p> <p><b><i>Ephesians 2:10 – We are His workmanship, created in Christ for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.</i></b></p>	
e.	<b><i>Exceeding greatness of His Power towards us who believe</i></b>	<b>Verse 19</b>
	*This will be covered in PART 5	

**CONCLUSION:**

***Ephesians 1:22 And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things for the church,***

***Ephesians 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.***

- *The church is meant to act as His representative*
- *Have you understood? Have you been baptised in the Holy Spirit?*
- *God knows what we need, and he has made sure we have access to Him*
- *Are you living in his fullness?*