

The Foundations

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 1:3-14.
- B. This letter focuses on the riches believers have in Christ.
- C. The long sentence in the introduction to Ephesians is Paul's way of showing how truth is connected together.

II. The riches.

- A. The work of the Father. He chose believers and predestined them.
- B. The work of the Son. In Jesus, believers have redemption through His blood.
- C. The work of the Spirit. The Spirit seals the believer as a promise of his inheritance.
- D. These are all available in the heavenlies, which is a reference to the invisible realities of the present.
- E. All of these riches come "in Christ"—one must be a Christian to receive them.

III. The work of the Father.

- A. God chose believers before the foundation of the world—this is election.
- B. There is tension between the sovereignty of God and the freewill of man.
- C. Paul wants to know that if we are to come to God He must draw us first.
- D. Believers are chosen that they might be holy and blameless.
 - 1. They are to be whole and restored to their original function.
 - 2. One can be sinful and still blameless by handling his sin in the right way.
- E. God foreordained believers to adoption as sons to provide for holiness and blamelessness.
 - 1. We are to live as Jesus did since He was the Son.
 - 2. We have the life that Jesus did. (John 6)
- F. The end is the praise of the glory of God's grace. God is training us for this.
- G. God accomplished all of this by freely bestowing it on us through Christ. (II Corinthians 8)

Application questions:

1. The subject of election is difficult—how do you reconcile God’s sovereignty and man’s free will?

2. How is adoption the solution for blame and godlessness? Explain.

3. Is praise evident in your life no matter the circumstance? What can you do to live a more consistent life of praise before God? Explain.
