

You've Got Mail

Ephesians 1:1-3*

The letter to the Ephesian church is considered as “the crown of Paul's writings.” As we begin our journey through this letter we need to recognize God's blessings and our place in those blessings. Only then will we begin to understand this great letter.

In many respects Ephesians reads more like a sermon—in some parts more like a prayer or a mighty doxology—than a letter written to meet some special need in a church or group of churches. It is like a sermon on the greatest and widest theme possible for a Christian sermon—the eternal purpose of God which he is fulfilling through his Son Jesus Christ, and working out in and through the church.²

1. The author of the letter (1a)

2. The recipients of the letter (1b-2)

3. The purpose of the letter (3)

*If you have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for everlasting life
you are a part of the living body, the church.*

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

² Francis Foulkes, *Ephesians: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 10, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1989), 20.

Whose Fault?

Someone has called Ephesians “*The believer's checkbook*”. Imagine having an account upon which you could write checks as often as you wished, in any amount you wished, and that account would never be diminished. That is what the believer has in the book of Ephesians.

This book reveals the riches of God's grace to the believer. It teaches us about what we have because of who we are in Jesus. Then, Ephesians shows us how to spend what we have been given in Christ.

This is a book about riches.

- *The riches of His grace (1:7)*
- *The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (1:18)*
- *The riches of His mercy (2:4)*
- *The surpassing riches of His grace (2:7)*
- *The unsearchable riches of Christ (3:8)*
- *The riches of His glory (3:16)*

This is also a book about the fullness we enjoy in Jesus.

- *be filled with the fullness of Christ (3:16)*
- *to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (4:13)*
- *be filled with the Spirit (5:18)*

These riches and this fullness arise from:

- *His grace (1:2, 6, 7; 2:7)*
- *His peace (1:2)*
- *His will (1:5)*
- *His pleasure and his propose (1:9)*
- *His glory (1:12, 14)*
- *His calling (1:18)*
- *His power and strength (1:19; 6:10)*
- *His love (2:4)*
- *His workmanship (2:10)*
- *His Spirit (3:16)*
- *His offering and sacrifice (5:2)*
- *His armor (6:11-13)*

Ephesians mentions “riches” five times. “Grace” is mentioned twelve times. “glory” is mentioned eight times. “fullness” or “filled” is mentioned six times. “in Christ” or “in Him” some twelve times. The idea of “in”, “with” or “through” Christ is found some thirty times. This is a book about the overwhelming, infinite wealth we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers are amazingly rich because of their relationship with Jesus, (Rom. 8:17; 1 Pet. 1:4).

The great Scottish Bible expositor Alexander MacLaren once wrote: “We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the bullion vault of a bank and told to help himself, and comes out with one cent, whose fault is it that he is poor?”