

# “The Rich Legacy of Those ‘in Christ’”

## Series: Learning to Live “Christ” - Ephesians

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I have noticed that many Christ-followers focus on the past or on the future but not on the present.

Ephesians is a book that helps us understand God/Theology, but that’s not its primary aim. Ephesians’ aim is to help assure and energize these Gentile Christians of their place in “His Story” now!

- **Paul is clarifying how God has been moving \_\_\_\_\_ forward!**

“...who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3b

“For he **chose us in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> **he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> **In him we have redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us **the mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed **in Christ**, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> **In him** we were also **chosen**, having been **predestined** according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And **you also were included in Christ** when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

Ephesians 1:4-14

- **Paul is clarifying how the \_\_\_\_\_ made their entrance into “His Story”!**

“And **you also were included in Christ** when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you **were marked in him** with a seal, the promised **Holy Spirit**, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14

- **We are allowed to Discover the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Will now Revealed! Vs. 9-10**

“...With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us **the mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed **in Christ**, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect **when the times reach their fulfillment**—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.” Ephesians 1:8b-10

**Conclusion:** Now What???

All Scriptures are from the New International Version unless noted.  
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