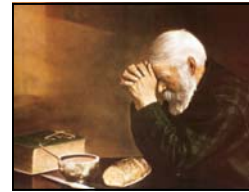


# Our Riches in Christ!

A Study in the Book of Ephesians

The Book of Ephesians Chapters 1 - 6

August 30, 2009



1:4,5: Long before He laid down earth's foundations, (God) had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of His love, to be made whole and holy by His love...to adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ.

1:7: Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah...we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds.

1:11: It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

1:17-19: I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ...make you discerning in knowing Him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is He is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for Christians.

1:22, 23: At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church is Christ's body, in which He speaks and acts, by which He fills everything with His presence.

2-10: HE creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

2:19f: GOD is building a home. He's using us all...in what He is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now He's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

3-10: Through Christians like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

3-20: God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us.

4:7ff: Out of the generosity of Christ...He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with His Gifts, filled earth with His gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son.

4:30f: Don't grieve God. Don't break His heart...make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

5:6-7: Don't let yourselves get taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with Him. Don't even hang around people like that.

5:10: Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.

6-10f: God is strong, and He wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way...Truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon...Prayer is essential.

6:19: AND DON'T FORGET TO PRAY FOR ME. PRAY THAT I'LL KNOW WHAT TO SAY AND HAVE THE COURAGE TO SAY IT AT THE RIGHT TIME, TELLING THE MYSTERY TO ONE AND ALL.

Biblical text from "Peterson's The Message, occasional emphases  
by Pr. Larry"