

THE RICHES OF WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING

Part 8 Ephesians Chapter One

INTRODUCTION **PROMO SLIDE**

WHEN JESUS DIED UPON THE CROSS ... NOT ONLY WERE ALL OUR SINS FORGIVEN, HIS ETERNAL RICHES WERE GIVEN ... ALL BY HIS GRACE ...

Ephesians 1:7-8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of trespasses, according to the riches of His grace⁸ which He lavished upon [into] us in all wisdom and understanding.

HERE IN OUR TEXT WE CAN SEE THESE TWO ASPECTS OF OUR REDEMPTION

- 1 A NEGATIVE ASPECT
- 2 A POSITIVE ASPECT

NB: The negative aspect has positive results

1. NEGATIVE = WHAT HE'S TAKEN AWAY FROM US –
OUR SINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY
2. POSITIVE = WHAT HE'S BROUGHT US INTO
THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE ARE LAVISHED UPON US

TODAY ...

- WE ARE MOVING ON FROM THE FINISHED WORK OF FORGIVENESS ... Although -
 - THIS WILL ALWAYS BE THE BASIS OF ALL WE HAVE
 - AND WILL ALWAYS BE THE SUBJECT OF OUR PRAISE
- WE ARE MOVING ON INTO THE FUTURE WORK OF GOD'S GRACE-RICHES ... WHICH OUR TEXT DESCRIBES AS ...

SLIDE '... THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE ... LAVISHED UPON US ...'

SO WHAT ARE THESE GRACE-RICHES HE'S LAVISHED UPON US?

- **THESE GRACE-RICHES ARE WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING**

Ephesians 1:8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... He lavished [⁷the riches of His grace] upon us *in all wisdom and understanding*.

NB: THIS IS NOT GOD HAVING WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING

HE IS OMNISCIENT ... HE KNOWS ALL THINGS

SLIDE THIS WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING IS THE FIRST ASPECT OF HIS RICHES THAT HE LAVISHES UPON US ...

NB 'IN'

Ephesians 1:8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... He lavished [⁷the riches of His grace] upon us *in all wisdom and understanding*.

If I were to say to you, you have just won 10 billion dollars ... YOU WOULD BE OVERJOYED ...

SLIDE But if I said you won 10 billion dollars *in* gold bullion – YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF THE PRIZE YOU WON IS 10 BILLION DOLLARS 'IN THE CURRENCY OF' GOLD BULLION. 10 billion dollars *is being paid to you 'IN' gold bullion ...*

SO YOU SEE WHAT THIS PASSAGE HERE IS SAYING ...

WE HAVE BEEN LAVISHED WITH THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE ... IN THE CURRENCY OF ALL WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING ...

God gives **THESE GRACE-RICHES** in a far more valuable currency than 'Gold Bullion' ... FAR MORE ENDURING ... HE GIVES US HIS RICHES IN 'WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING'.

**➤ THE VALUE OF WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING
WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING IS GOD'S CURRENCY**

*Imagine that you've been on a trip to Europe and you get a phone call to say you were the 1 millionth person to enter *the Sistine chapel in Rome* and have won the greatest prize in the world ...*

SLIDE *So you fly back to Rome to get your prize.*

Before you do, they have other, lesser prize winners receiving what they won. The third-place prize-winner is called up and receives a cheque for \$100,000. He rejoices and everyone cheers.

The second-place winner is called up and receives 1 Million Dollars. She rejoices and again everyone cheers.

You are feeling pretty excited seeing the prize value rise from third to second place. You wonder, with growing anticipation, what you will receive ...

Then finally 'The Grand Prize Winner' is announced ... the crowd roars ... and you are called up ... You are so excited knowing you will receive even more than 1 Million dollars. The throng goes wild with excitement as you mount the stairs ... And here comes your prize ...

The official reaches into a gold box ... and slowly brings out your prize ...

The crowd goes silent ...

You are confused at what you see ...

SLIDE *The official hands you an ancient, Bible.*

He says ... 'Here you are ... This is Your Grand Prize –

'YOU HAVE WON THE MOST VALUABLE THING IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE ...'

The crowds gasp in horror ... You turn white ...

You think, 'Is this a mean trick?'

You go home and throw the book on the floor in disgust and disappointment. Why?

*Because you do not see **the Value** in what you have been given ...*

*But you were just given **the wisdom of eternity and the understanding of the eternal purposes of God** ...*

So often ... we don't see the value in what we have been given and we crave after material things of lesser value.

GOD'S ECONOMY IS DIFFERENT TO OURS

- WE THINK OF RICHES IN TERMS OF MATERIAL THINGS ...
- **GOD THINKS IN TERMS OF SPIRITUAL THINGS**

People consider gold = riches ... diamonds = riches ... real estate = riches ...

GOD'S VALUE IS IN 'SPIRITUAL THINGS'

NOT MATERIAL THINGS ...

For example -

Ephesians 1:3

... Blessed ... with all SPIRITUAL blessings ...

Matthew 6:19-20

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal ²⁰ but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING ARE HEAVENLY TREASURES

Proverbs 3:13-15 **SLIDE**

*Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding;
14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine
gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire
cannot compare with her.*

Things that feed the soul of man are more valuable than all the riches in the world ...

Mark 8:36

For what will it profit a man (value) if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?

IN YOUR HAND ... YOU HAVE THE GREATEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN ...
THE GREATEST WORDS EVER SPOKEN ...
THE GREATEST IDEAS EVER SHARED ...
THE GREATEST MYSTERIES EVER AWOKEN ...

James 1:21

*... Receive with meekness [mildness – gentleness] the implanted
[planted in you] word, which is able to save [preserve] your souls.*

WE SHOULD OPEN GOD'S WORD DELICATELY ... TREMBLING WITH
EXCITEMENT ...
THERE IS SOOOO MUCH MORE TO KNOW ... SO MANY MYSTERIES YET TO
BE REVEALED ...

*I used to paw over the Scriptures when I was a new believer – 19 years of age.
I'd mediate on it all day. I couldn't wait for lunch to go to a café with my Bible
(already critically underlined), my pad and pen, where I'd chew on the richness
of His Word while I munched on my toasted sandwich.*

*Nowadays I pound my computer ... everyday ... studying His mysteries ...
Not because I have to ... but because I've tasted truth and I get greedy for
more ... I am overindulgent. I devour the fatness of his house.
Sometimes feeling bloated I have to stop and watch TV just so I can have time
to digest it all ...*

Far beyond material wealth ... far beyond anything this world could
ever offer ... we have insight into the mysteries of God Himself...

THIS IS ETERNAL WISDOM & TRUTH
THAT LIVED & BREATHED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN –
BEFORE ANY MATERIAL SUBSTANCE WAS EVER MADE ...
AND **WITH WHICH ALL MATERIAL SUBSTANCE WAS CREATED.**

➤ **WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING
ARE ETERNAL QUALITIES OF GOD**

Look at Proverbs speaking about 'Wisdom' -

Proverbs 3:19 **SLIDE**

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens ... (See also [Psalm 104:24](#) and [Psalm 136:5](#))

Proverbs 8:22 World English Bible

Yahweh possessed me in the beginning of his work, before his deeds of old.

Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and in all your getting, get understanding.

➤ WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING

WERE PREREQUISITES BEFORE MY HEALING WAS RECEIVED

After my DIAGNOSIS of cancer, I asked the Lord what was going on. This is the wisdom [sophia] that James tells us to ask for ... (James 1:7)

Immediately the Lord spoke to my heart and said, 'THIS IS NOT ABOUT HEALING ... THIS IS ABOUT LEARNING'.

**GOD PUT KNOWING & UNDERSTANDING HIS SOVEREIGNTY ABOVE MY PHYSICAL HEALING ... AND AS I REJOICED IN HIS WISDOM BEING REVEALED ... HE ALSO BROUGHT ME THROUGH TO FULL RECOVERY
IT WAS AT THIS TIME I BEGAN TO LEARN ABOUT HIS GRACE**

So many parents say to their young children ... 'You don't need to know that ...'

But God says to us, 'I want you to know these great mysteries of the universe ...'

Jeremiah 33:3

Call to me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

THERE IS SOOOO MUCH TO KNOW THAT YOU DO NOT YET KNOW ... THINGS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER ...

➤ **THE EFFECT OF WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING**

This wisdom is (in the Greek) ‘sophia’.

It means knowing the truth about something. Its reality.

In this context, it is to know the ‘Richness of the Grace of God’ ... which includes the cost of our redemption (see Ephesians 1:7)

But also to begin to understand as in verse 9 ‘The Mystery of His Will’ ...

NB: There are some things we don’t need to know ...

Like who did Cain marry? When is Jesus coming back? Etc ...

BUT THIS WISDOM OPENS THE DOOR TO THE WONDER OF GOD HIMSELF ... - things we see listed in the next verses

- ***Verse 9 – The Mystery of His Will***
- ***Verse 18 – The Hope of His Calling***
- ***Verse 18 – The Riches of His Glory***
- ***Verse 19 – The Exceeding Greatness of His Power***

THE SUBSTANCE OF WISDOM

Ephesians 1:17

... The Spirit of Wisdom and revelation ...

This is THE SUBSTANCE of wisdom ...

We call people wise because they say wise things or do wise things

For example, Jesus, in the incident of the woman taken in adultery said, ‘Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.’ (see John 8:7)

And on another occasion He said, ‘... Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ (Matthew 22:21)

This did not make Jesus wise ... What He said came from THE SUBSTANCE OF WISDOM JESUS HAD IN HIM.

In Ephesians 1:17 Paul says this wisdom is necessary for you to know these things ... The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation ...

Jesus said to the disciples -

Matthew 13:11

... Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

But you say, 'I'm too old ... I'm content to just be a quiet Christian and wait for the Lord to take me home ...'

**Friend have you stopped seeking because you're old or ...
Are you old because you have stopped seeking???**

***This new light upon His Eternal truth brings New zeal ... New life ...
New enthusiasm ...***

IT WILL KEEP YOU YOUNG BEYOND YOUR YEARS ...

Proverbs 3:13 & 16-18 **SLIDE**

Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding;

¹⁶Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor.

¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

¹⁸She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her.

What are we living for? TO KNOW HIM ...

SO HOW DO I GET THIS GREAT WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING?

To understand how to understand ...

To know how to know what I already know ...

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER ... YOU ALREADY HAVE IT.

**NOTICE IT DOESN'T SAY 'He lavishes us ... or He will lavish us ... but
' ... He [has] lavished ...' – **AORIST TENSE ... IT'S DONE & DUSTED****

THIS MEANS: YOU **HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN ALL WISDOM &
UNDERSTANDING – IN CHRIST.**

TO TAKE THIS ONE STAGE FURTHER ...

**➤ *THIS 'WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE' HAS BEEN
IMPARTED INTO YOU, THE MOMENT YOU BELIEVED***



Ephesians 1:8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

***... He lavished [⁷the riches of His grace] **upon [into] us** in all
wisdom and understanding.***

NB: THE PREPOSITION 'UPON' IS EIS MEANING IN OR INTO.

WISDOM IS A SUBSTANCE FROM GOD

IT HAS BEEN INFUSED INTO US ...

WE ALREADY HAVE IT.

'LAVISHED' CAN ALSO MEAN 'MADE TO OVERFLOW'

Ephesians 1:8 Chris Lambe Version **SLIDE**

*He made to overflow [⁷the riches of His grace] **into us** in all wisdom and understanding.*

1 Corinthians 1:30 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

NOT ONLY SOME WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE BUT ALL

Ephesians 1:8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*... **He lavished** [⁷the riches of His grace] ~~upon~~ [into] us in **all** wisdom and understanding.*

All (pasē) Adjective - All, **the whole, every kind of**. Including all the forms of declension

➤ **THESE GRACE-RICHES WERE LAVISHED UPON US**

Ephesians 1:8 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*... **He lavished** [⁷the riches of His grace] upon us in all wisdom and understanding.*

LAVISHED = (eperisseusen) Verb - Aorist Indicative Active -

Strong's Greek 4052: From perissos; **to superabound / be in excess**, be superfluous; also to cause to superabound or excel.

GRACE ALWAYS ... ABOUNDS ... OVERFLOWS ...

GRACE DOESN'T JUST GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED BUT FAR MORE THAN YOU NEED ...

My daughter Gabby asks for \$50 for food – I give her \$100

- GRACE IS SUPER-GENEROUS ...
- GRACE IS FLAMBOYANT ... NEVER FRUGAL ...

- GRACE IS EXCESSIVE ... EXTREME
- HE LAVISHED THESE GRACE-RICHES UPON US

➤ THE OPERATION OF WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE

WE ALREADY HAVE A RESERVOIR OF WISDOM IN US THAT MANY OF US ARE YET TO TAP

WE CAN DRAW WATER FROM THE WELL OF WISDOM WITHIN US

Proverbs 5:15

Drink waters from your own cistern ...

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT UNDERSTANDING

Understanding - (phronēsei) **Noun** From phroneo; mental action or activity, i.e.

Intellectual or moral insight.

This is knowing in your mind ... reasoning & concluding ...

WE HAVE A HEART WISDOM **LEADING** A HEAD UNDERSTANDING.

NB: THE HEART COMES FIRST – THE HEART DIRECTS THE HEAD

[Ephesians 1:17-18](#)

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, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know ...

THIS IS MEDITATING ...

Listen to your heart ... you have a New Heart of wisdom

Let your mind now intellectualize what the Heart already knows ...

DRAW ASIDE & EMBRACE THIS WISDOM

Proverbs 18:1 Exact Hebrew translation

*For his desire a man who **separates himself** seeks; **in all wisdom he mingles himself.***