

APPLICATION

In Sunday's message we offered four heart responses to the truths in this study. (1) Cultivate intimacy with God. (2) Ask God to impress on you how incredibly rich you are in him. (3) Ask God to reveal your heart idolatries and enable you to loosen their grip on your life. (3) Celebrate what you have in Christ.

1. Why are each of these important if we want to realize how incredibly rich we are in Christ?
2. Which one of these do you most need to cultivate?
3. What are some steps you can take in the days and weeks to come to cultivate this quality in your life?



360 DISCUSSION 04.30.17

WEALTH BEYOND MEASURE

GALATIANS 3:27-4:7



The largest lottery payout in history was a Powerball jackpot of 1.6 billion dollars. I know that sounds like a lot of money, but the winnings were split three ways, so each of the winners received \$528.8 million. One of the winners opted for a lump sum payout, so they only received \$327 million. My guess is that after taxes they may have walked away with just shy of \$100 million. One of the winners, waited six months before claiming the prize, because they were afraid of the dramatic changes that would overtake them as a result of their new found wealth.

What would you do if you won the Lottery? Let's forget all the ways you might spend the money, and how dramatically you might resign from your current job. How would you respond to the news that you had won the lottery?

Do you think anyone ever received the news that they had won the lottery with a dismissive, "Oh, that's cool," then slid right back onto the couch to finish binge watching "Stranger Things" on Netflix? Not a chance! I am sure anyone who has ever won the lottery discovered untapped reserves of exuberance that they never had experienced before, accompanied by dancing, shouting, jumping up and down and unrestrained craziness.—the kind of things they would later regret had they been caught on camera.

The truth is that those of us who are in Christ have won the lottery. None of us have any idea of how incredibly rich we really are in Christ. What we have in Him is far more precious than any and every lottery winning, or all the wealth this world has to offer combined.

In Christ, we have wealth beyond measure.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST (3:27-29)

In verses 27-29, Paul describes how inextricably our lives are bound to Christ through faith in him. It is through Christ that we have access to the promises God made to Abraham.

27 For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. 28 There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

1. Notice the prepositional phrases that are attached to the name of Christ in these passages. We were baptized into Christ. We have been clothed with Christ. We are all one in Christ. We belong to Christ. What do each of these tell us about our relationship with God through Christ?
2. How does baptism offer a unique picture of our relationship with God through Christ?
3. How does being clothed with Christ offer a unique picture of our relationship with God through Christ?
4. What are the implications of our relationship with God through Christ?

TWO CHEAP SUBSTITUTES (4:1-3)

Paul mentions two cheap substitutes to the unique relationship with have with God through Christ—strict adherence to the Law and clinging to the things of this world..

4:1 Now I say that as long as the heir is a child, he differs in no way from a slave, though he is the owner of everything. 2 Instead, he is under guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were in slavery under the elements of the world.

1. What do the Law and the basic elements of this world have in common?
2. How can adherence to the Law enslave us?
3. How can the basic elements (or the things) of the world enslave us?

GOD'S INTERVENTION ON OUR BEHALF (4:4-5)

In order to release us from our bondage to the Law and the Basic Elements of the world, Christ entered our world, shouldered our burden and paid the price for our redemption. As a result, we have been welcomed into God's family.

4 When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

1. What does this passage teach us about God's timing?
2. What does this passage tell us that Christ did in order to redeem us from bondage to the Law and the things of this world?
3. What else did Christ do that is (implied) but not specifically mentioned in the passage?
4. When we are justified by faith, we stand acquitted before God as our judge. When we are adopted as sons we are received into God's family by a loving Father.
 - a. Why are each of these (justification and adoption) important?
 - b. Why is adoption a far richer picture of the relationship God desires to have with us?
 - c. Do you more often approach God as "a judge before which we need to be vindicated" or "a loving Father by whom we have been welcomed into the family"?

TWO INCREDIBLE GIFTS (4:6-7)

As a result of Christ's intervention on our behalf we have received incredible gifts from God.

6 And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then God has made you an heir.

1. How does Paul describe the Holy Spirit in this passage?
2. Why is this significant?
3. What is the primary function of the Holy Spirit in this particular passage?
4. What do you stand to gain if you are an heir in a wealthy family?
5. What do you stand to gain if you are an heir in God's family?