

## STUDY #1: EPHESIANS 1:1-6 "THE STORY OF GOD"

SOMETHING ABOUT THE OCEAN – REVIVE FOR US...vast volume/power waves. So much more going on than what you see on the surface – **STRENGTH OF THE OCEAN IS WHAT'S HAPPENING UNDERNEATH** - THERMOLHALINE CURRENTS – ice melts antarctica – denser water sinks – difference in temperature and density create currents that run under the ocean surface throughout the earth – start/stop/1000yrs TC is sometimes called the ocean conveyor belt, transmits heat and other needed materials – regulates the oceans temperatures to 1 degree – LIFE CAN FLOURISH

- PAUL'S LIFE – No matter what was happening on the surface – **STRENGTH** Circumstances may have been cold on the outside, but Paul was fired up and spiritually hot on the inside. **Stable, strong, filled, empowered, he had joy, radiated Christ**

- THAT IS EPHESIANS – **GOSPEL CENT LIFE - LIVING FROM THE FLOW.....**  
**MP: The gospel-centered life is a life of flourishing that comes by living from the deep flowing currents of God's blessings.**

### **BLESSED**

**BLESSED BE THE GOD:** Eulogy- Speak well of God – ROOT OF PRAISE

Blessing God is the primary language of the Christian. **Start/End our day/Pepp Praise**

- We learn to speak what creation has always known – **(blessed is He who comes) - EVEN THE ROCKS**

**Outburst:** Blessed be the One who blessed us – 1 of longest sentences in the Bible

- Started and He couldn't stop...**DISPOSITION TOWARDS GOD – flow of praise**

**PRAISE IS THE POWER OF CONNECTION – PRAISE AS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH CONNECTS YOU TO GOD AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU – TAP INTO CURRE**

**GOD, IN CHRIST, HAS BLESSED US:** Christians (Christ Followers) are divinely favored.

**3 CHAPTERS ALL THAT YOU ARE AND HAVE IN JESUS.**

- **SPIRITUAL BLESSING:** current of heaven's influence flows into ur life – BY FAITH, IN JESUS, THROUGH GRACE
  - o **Bank of Asia – Wealthy City – aiming to be rich – Not get rich. U R rich**
- **EVERY:** Unlimited, without exception, God isn't holding anything back, In the Garden – **LIE OF DEVIL** – Every nook/cranny current blessing flow by faith
  - o Includes Provision: money, possessions, circumstances **(YES)**

The blessings of God run so much deeper material possessions. SURFACE/DEEPER

- **THOSE DON'T SUSTAIN YOU...** You need the deeper blessings of God

Hetty Green "America's Greatest Miser," yet when she died in 1916, "Hetty" Green left an estate valued at over \$100 mill. She ate cold oatmeal because it cost to heat it. Her son had to suffer a leg amputation, because she delayed so long in looking for a free clinic that his case became incurable.

Come though fount of every blessing tune my heart to sing thy praise streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise..

## **YOU ARE BLESSED WITH VALUE**

**CHOSEN:** Elect, cast his ballot for you, picked you – before made rock, shape sky, fish

- GOD KNEW YOU BEFORE YOU WERE...**HE WANTED YOU – my eye on this 1**
  - o One of the greatest value statements in the Bible

not wanted profess, romantically, physically, intellectually Devil not enuf: inadequate, foolish, not wise enough, smart enough, pretty enough **U R DIVINELY DESIRED**

- Object: Doesn't this negate our responsibility to choose?

God, in His wisdom, has accommodated both divine election and human responsibility.

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

**HEAVEN'S GATE:** Whosoever will may come – Chosen from before the foundation world

**Try to explain election you may lose your mind. Try to explain it away you may lose ur soul!**

## **YOU ARE BLESSED WITH IDENTITY**

**IN LOVE HE HAS PREDESTINED ADOPTION:** IDENTITY – CHILD OF GOD - FAMILY

- **NATURAL BIRTH:** GET WHAT COMES - **ADOPTION:** YOU GET WHAT CHOOSE
  - o IN LOVE HE – carefully considered, thought through thoroughly - ETERN

God knew what He was getting into when He adopted you. **HE'S NOT SURPRISED**

- o It takes love – not contingent on your performance....

**THE PROCESS OF ADOPTION** – complex, bureaucratic – **FAITH IN JESUS**

1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

## **YOU RESPOND IN PRAISE: TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GRACE**

- **GRACE:** God's Riches At Christ's Expense – infinitely able to meet ur miniscule needs – **ALL THE WATER IN THE OCEAN FILLING ONE CUP**

God's grace is so great it exceeds your demands. Your need will never exceed His supply

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Your cup is full

Your need never exceeds his supply

The overflow of his blessings bless others – be prepared