

**“Crazy Rich Christians”**  
*Ephesians 1:7-14*  
Rev. Min J. Chung  
(Lord’s Day Service, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018)

**Ephesians 1:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,* <sup>8</sup> *which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight* <sup>9</sup> *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ* <sup>10</sup> *as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

<sup>11</sup> *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,* <sup>12</sup> *so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.* <sup>13</sup> *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,* <sup>14</sup> *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

**Introduction**

*[Video] Look at the reaction of the girl as she finds out that she is going to be adopted. The interaction between the parents and the child is the foundational basis of the passage.*

Last week, we talked about God the Father’s love for us in Jesus Christ, who is the only true child of God or Son of God. Therefore, when we are saved, we are in Jesus Christ and are adopted children of God through him. Today, the passage describes the benefits that we receive as adopted children.

The first chapter of Ephesians shows salvation from God’s point of view. The second chapter shows salvation from our point of view. We often misunderstand God because we do not have the full picture of salvation. We must look at both perspectives and understand what it means to be saved and what it means to live our Christian lives. Chapters 1 and 2 emphasize God’s sovereignty and human responsibility working together, which means God works through our choices. Our choices are still real in such a way that we are responsible for our choices. However, God somehow mysteriously works through our choices.

Main Point: “Because of Jesus, we receive blessings as His children through the Holy Spirit.”

**I. Because of Jesus [7-8]**

<sup>7</sup> *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,* <sup>8</sup> *which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight*

**A. In Christ – Union with Christ [7]**

<sup>7</sup> *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

This is God’s perspective. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, God sees us IN Jesus Christ. Paul is explaining the process of adoption mentioned in Ephesians 1:5. Union with Christ is summarized in the following two ways.

1. We are in Christ – All that is bad in us, Jesus takes away

When God sees our sins, He sees us as pure and righteous as Jesus because we are in Jesus Christ. It is not simply an exchange. For example, when chlorine is in water, it kills harmful bacteria and viruses. In the same way, Jesus takes away the bad in us.

2. Christ in us – All that is good of Christ, Jesus gives us

If a woman marries a rich man or if a man marries a rich woman, they share the riches. Union with Christ means the marriage between the people of God and the persons of God. All that is of Christ becomes ours. There is not much gain for him but all the gain for us in Christ.

### **B. What God takes away from us [7]**

*<sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,*

God takes away our sins, our bondage, and our slavery. We should pray to fight physical slavery and bondage in the world. But the reality is that the physical slavery and bondage in the world is a shallow reflection of a much deeper, eternal slavery of our hearts. That is why we need to preach the Gospel because the Gospel is the answer to the slavery of our hearts.

The word “redemption” means deliverance by payment of a price. It is specifically applied to ransoming of slaves. When we were in bondage to sin, Jesus Christ died on our behalf and gave his precious blood of infinite value to cleanse us from our sins. This is what makes adoption possible. Jesus’s last phrase was, “It is finished,” and this is the beginning of a Christian life. We can be freed and redeemed in Jesus Christ.

### **C. What God gives to us [7-8]**

*<sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight*

Our forgiveness comes from the riches of Jesus’s grace. Because his grace never runs out, our forgiveness also never runs out. That is why we sing “Amazing Grace” and the fourth verse says, “when we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.” Endlessly, we will receive grace, mercy, and forgiveness. There is no reason for Christians to sit and condemn themselves. Always go to the Lord again because his forgiveness is out of the riches of his grace. You cannot sin more than God can forgive.

Past tense such as “lavished” does not mean that God gives everything at once. When the Bible uses past tense, it means it began and will progressively get better. It will never end. When he began to give grace, he is going to progressively give us more.

Then why does God not give us everything now? Although God is pouring His grace upon us, we cannot receive because the bowls of our hearts are too small and filled with filth. As much as we grow and desire, we can receive. That is why God must take away in order to give. Through the union with Christ, God takes away in order to fill us with more of Himself.

## **II. We receive blessings [9-12]**

<sup>9</sup> *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*

There are two main blessings we receive in Christ.

### **A. We are united under Christ – His Lordship [9-10]**

<sup>9</sup> *making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

“Making known” suggests that we were ignorant. We did not know what to live for in our lives. Everything that happens in history is neither meaningless nor purposeless. God is sovereignly working towards a glorious goal He has set. “Mystery” refers to the revelation of something that was previously hidden but known only vaguely and progressively now and fully known later. The mystery is going to be solved in Jesus Christ. God is going to put everything and everybody under Christ and only then, all the problems will be solved.

“Fullness of time” means when the time is right. “Unite all things in him” means to bring together or unite. Everything will be summed up in Jesus Christ. Romans 13:9 says, “...*any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* When you see Jesus, everything such as mystery of life and purpose of life will make sense.

### **B. We receive inheritance because of Christ – Our sonship [11-12]**

<sup>11</sup> *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.*

In Roman law, adopted children enjoyed the same rights as natural children. They can never be rejected by their parents. The blessings Jesus has is also ours as adopted children of God. Why does the Bible say adopted sons and not adopted sons and daughters? In Roman law, only the sons received inheritance. But in Jesus Christ, both men and women are co-heirs of Christ.

What is this inheritance? Romans 8:29 says, “*for those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...*” Our inheritance is the essence, the character, and the

person of his Son. We all become like Jesus differently. We picture a vast image of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is our hope as adopted children of God.

We are united under Christ. We receive his inheritance by becoming like Christ. The word “unite” really means reunite. There was a time of unity in the universe. But man sinned, leading to the Fall of the entire universe. God is in the process of reuniting humanity to God. That is what “mystery” is. The whole system has gone wrong and you see the symptoms of the disintegration. Therefore, Ephesians says that the “mystery” is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When the true King shows up, everything is going to be okay because everything was made for Christ and made to worship and submit to him. If you live under the Lordship of Christ through the church of Jesus Christ, you will bear fruit and live a life worthy of his grace. We need to see Jesus as our King and have a kingdom consciousness in every sphere of our lives which includes our culture, our social lives, our workplaces, our families, and etc. Be like Christ SO that we can represent him and declare his Lordship and Kingship in the world through the Church of Jesus Christ.

### **III. Through the Holy Spirit [13-14]**

*<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

#### **A. Promised [13]**

*<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*

Holy Spirit was promised throughout the Old Testament. Acts 1:4-5 says, “<sup>4</sup> and while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

When you hear the Gospel, God is going to come into your heart and your heart will come alive in such a way that you can have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will empower and help you throughout your life.

#### **B. Sealed [13]**

*<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*

“Sealed” means mark of authenticity and ownership. The Holy Spirit is a seal to show that a person is an authentic Christian. Cattles and slaves were branded with external seals by their masters to indicate ownership. But God’s seal is an internal presence of the Holy Spirit inside our hearts that connect to our spirits. The Holy Spirit will never depart from us once we place our faith in Jesus Christ. When you fail, examine the sealing of the Holy Spirit. If you are Christian and when you sin, you will feel terrible. You wish you never sinned again even though you

always will until Jesus comes back. Then you go back to the Cross again and again. That is the sealing of the Holy Spirit.

Sin nature is operating in our hearts, but the Holy Spirit is jealous that Jesus Christ is not exalted in our hearts. So, the Holy Spirit works in our hearts by giving us godly guilt to go back to the Cross. As we go back to the Cross again and again, we receive more forgiveness and grace. This process will help you grow until you glow for Christ. Continue to experience the sealing of the Holy Spirit.

### **C. Guarantee [14]**

*<sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

“Guarantee” means first installment. We experience just a glimpse of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Bible says that the presence of the Holy Spirit is the first installment and a taste of what is to come. It is like a down payment that pays a part of a purchase, which guarantees that the rest is on the way.

The installment of the Holy Spirit is similar to an engagement ring. The ring represents an installment of love from a man to a woman. God is saying that He is going to give us a little bit of His love, but the rest is coming. More love, more grace, more growth, and more glory are coming. You will go up and down, but you will grow and glow for Christ.