

Ron Baum • February 22-23, 2020
EPHESIANS: “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Ephesians 1 (NLT) 1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. 2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and **chose us** in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to **adopt us** into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. 6 So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son 7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he **purchased our freedom** with the blood of his Son and **forgave our sins**. 8 He has **showered his kindness on us**, along with all wisdom and understanding. 9 God has now **revealed to us his mysterious will** regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. 11 Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have **received an inheritance** from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. 12 God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. 13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he **identified you** as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. 14 **The Spirit is God's guarantee** that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. 15 Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those

he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 4:1 (NLT) Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.

Without understanding the **GRACE** (Underserved freedom & Eternity) of Ch. 1-3, it is impossible to experience the **PEACE** (assurance & security) of Ch. 4-6.

Who do you think you are? It is not about **WHO** you are. It is about **WHOSE** you are!

The Apostle Paul's PRAYER for us:

- He PRAYS that we might **KNOW** God **BETTER!** (v.15-17)
- He PRAYS that our **HEARTS** will **IGNITE!** (v.18)
- He PRAYS that we would engage the **RESURRECTION POWER!** (v.19-20)

What is resurrection power?

- It is the power to **CANCEL** your past.
- It is the power to **CONQUER** your problems.
- It is the power to **CHANGE** your perspective.