



OUR WEALTH, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE

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Ephesians in review: Our Wealth; Our Walk; Our Warfare

Introduction:

Our Journey – not just review but reflect and be inspired.

The three sections of this amazing book:

1-3	4-5	6
Our Wealth	Our Walk	Our Warfare
Our position in Christ	Our life in the world	Our attitude to the enemy
Sit	Walk	Stand
Eph 1:17-21; Eph 2:6	Eph 4:1, 17	Eph 6:11,13,14
Christ is raised & seated	Walk worthy	Stand, stand, stand
We are raised & seated	Not as gentiles walk	A place of victory
Co-heirs with Christ	In the body	Not victims of Satan
(Rom 8:16,17)	(Kingdom Community)	Overcomers in Christ

To be useful in God's hands we need to be properly aligned in all 3 areas.

1. Live from our position in Christ: not achieved by good works, but by inheritance. (This is the foundation for 2 and 3).
2. Walk the kingdom lifestyle in community.
3. **Stand in Christ's name against evil.**

Section 1: Our Wealth in Christ:

This section of Ephesians starts and ends with worship.

1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. Did you hear that?

3:20,21 Now to Him who is able (to do...) to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!

What is our wealth in Christ?

We are chosen; we are transformed; we are filled! This is our new reality! So, what do we have in Christ? Here are some of the things:

1:5 Adoption; 1:6 Acceptance; 1:7 Redemption; 1:7 Forgiveness; 1:8 Wisdom; 1:11,18 Inheritance; 1:13 Sealed; 1:17 Knowledge; 1:19 Revelation; 1:18 His calling; 1:23 His fullness; 2:1 Made alive; 2:4-2:8 Mercy, grace, love, kindness; 2:6 Seated in heavenly

places; 2:10 We are His workmanship / His creation with works prepared for us; 2:13 Brought near, were far away; 2:18 Access; 2:18 Unity; 2:19 Citizenship; 2:22 **God's** dwelling place; 3:12 Boldness, confidence; 3:16 Strength; 3:20 Power; 1:3 Every spiritual blessing; 3:18 Unsearchable riches in Christ.

How do I access this wealth?

(Illustration: The vault at the World of Coca Cola in Atlanta.)

Global enterprise founded on one secret. (**When Paul sent this...NFT**)

Paul only spoke of one place, one thing, one secret – IN CHRIST

We all want the things I have mentioned, and we may search for them in many places, but there is only one way, one key.

Salvation? **Yes. But...** Explore more!

Move beyond the welcome; don't get stuck in the history; open up the vault; and enjoy the celebration at the end! Keep exploring more of Jesus!

Read God's Word; read helpful books and commentaries; meditate on the fullness of what Jesus has made available; practise what you are learning; worship; pray / commune / slow down a bit.

All that I want is in You; all that I have is in You; all that I am is in You!

Section 2: Our Walk in Community

Walking worthy of our calling / how to walk in the light of all we have shared so far...

As those called out, chosen by God, adopted into His family, we are placed in a new community. Paul tells us how we will need to walk in this community: Humility and Patience; pursue unity in this community; recognize the variety of giftings and functions given to all the various members of the community; be kind and tenderhearted towards one another.

We have a new kingdom lifestyle; we are to put on the new man; we are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds / have a new way of thinking; our speech changes altogether; we are to be imitators of God; we have a new mindset and a new lifestyle;

We are one body; one community; all gifted; all contributing; every part of this body is supposed to do its share; every joint is supposed to be contributing something; we are all supposed to be growing up and maturing into His likeness. We are supposed to experience unity in our community and union with God.

This community (church) is loved, glorious, holy, nourished, cherished.

We learn this from Paul as he tells us more about marriage and then goes on to advise on parenting and employer / employee relationships.

Section 3: Our Warfare in the spirit

Who we are in Christ gives us the authority to stand in His name against evil. When we stand up against the enemy, we stand in a place of strength to enforce the victory of Christ against the evil one and the powers of darkness. We are well equipped by Christ; we have all the armour we need; we can have confidence in the battle. Keep standing!

Stand in His strength; don't fall for the devil's schemes! You are an overcomer in Jesus!

Conclusion:

We have enjoyed this journey through Ephesians, but there is still so much more to explore!

I pray that this morning you have been encouraged regarding the wealth of your position in Christ - and that you are motivated to explore more of His unsearchable riches. You will not be disappointed!

Secondly: **My prayer is that you will take hands with those around you in God's kingdom community and that you will walk worthy of His calling over your life.** Explore it and pursue it!

Thirdly: You have been positioned **and equipped to overcome. Don't fall for any of the enemy's schemes and don't be intimidated by any of his tactics. Be God's bold ambassador and pray for boldness for others who are representing God in their spheres of influence.**

Ephesians 1:2 Grace to you - and Peace – from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Ephesians 6:23 Peace **to you, God's family**, and love - with faith – from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a never-ending love. Amen.

Illustration:

If you had to ask someone who has lost everything, let's say in a fire,

"What do you need?" what do you think they would say? Imagine that they had lost all of their worldly goods and all of their money.

What would they need? Perhaps a house; a car; education for their kids; food for life; fuel for life; medical care for life; water and electricity for life; unlimited data for life?

What would their response be if you rolled out a plan for them that ticked all of those boxes?

Paul does something like that in the spirit for us in Ephesians!

Do you need love, acceptance, forgiveness, adoption into **God's family**?

You've got it – in Christ!

Do you need purpose, direction, a plan for your future, wisdom?

You've got it – in Christ!

Do you need strength, power, vitality, fullness?

You've got it – in Christ!

Do you need a community, a friend, a team, a role model?

You've got it – in Christ!

Do you need protection, victory, redemption, transformation?

You've got it – in Christ!

[It may not all be instantaneous; but it is all available!]

Discussion questions:

1. What impacted you the most in our study through the Book of Ephesians?
2. Do you think there is “more” to have in Christ than you are experiencing and how do you plan to discover and walk in it?
3. What revelations/truths can you share with others inside and outside our church community that will bring them closer to Jesus?