

# In Whom

## Ephesians 1:7-14



## Rock Hill Baptist Church

605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Brother David Buffaloe  
731-845-6104

online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)

**FOCAL** Ephesians 1:7-14<sup>KJV</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (8) Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; (9) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: (10) That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: (11) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (13) In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

**Prayer** Lord, I come before you now with trembling in my heart and in my soul. I am not trembling because I fear hell, for Jesus took my place on that terrible Cross. I love Him, I believe in Him, and I know I have an inheritance with the Saints. I am not trembling because I fear death, for Jesus has taken the sting of death away. My Master, beaten, bruised, and nailed to a tree, died terribly - and yet walked from that sealed and guarded tomb three days later. You have promised me a glorified body. What do I

**fear? I do not fear the loss of your love, for the Bible is clear that I cannot lose You. I may lose my sight, my senses, my loved ones, my pulpit, and yet I shall never lose you.**

**I tremble, O Lord, for You have given me a message to speak today to these dear people. I tremble lest, like a clumsy child, I fumble this message. Dear Spirit I plead with Thee. Open their hearts to hear this Word, and fill me with Thy Power so I may speak it. If at the end of the day there be any lost and undone in our midst, I beg Thee, Precious Savior, open the heart of the confused and let Your power reign. I pray that this very day we will see new Life, born of the Spirit, washed in the Blood of the Savior, a broken life mended, a beggar given the riches of God, the double minded healed and sealed, and another son of God raised up for Thy Glory. Glorify Thy Name in this place today, dear Lord, Eternal Father, Blessed Son, Heavenly Dove. In Jesus' Name I do humbly ask this. Amen!**

**Illustrate** I'm reluctant to use illustrations too early in the sermon, for often the mind of the hearer focuses on the illustration and ignores the greater truths in the Bible text. But I have found that sometimes the only way we limited humans can understand a spiritual truth is to tie it to a physical thing. This is what our Lord Jesus did with His *parables* - He tied an infinite truth to a finite story to better illustrate that truth. I am certainly no Jesus. He is God, forever Eternal, Who took on humanity to save us. I am one of the creatures that Jesus redeemed with His dear Blood. But, as God gives me the power, I'd like to

give a quick illustration that will help you better understand this text.

If I were to tell you that an armored car turned over in the street outside, most of you might want to go to the door and look. We're curious creatures, and we'd want to see what happened. If I were to tell you that this car not only turned over, but that money is scattered all around the Church building - millions of dollars - more of you would want to go and see it. But if I were to tell you that the car turned over and, the owners of the money said that we could have all we could pick up, I suppose there would be a scramble to hit the door. Why? Because that money has value. I would expect the same reaction if I told one of you that some *sweepstakes representatives* were here from a large publishing house, and they were waiting for you to get home and collect your million dollar check. Swish, you'd be gone! Most people would quickly head to where the money was because money has value.

On the other hand, if I told you that the million dollars scattered around the Church building was *old Russian rubles*, completely valueless now that Communist Russia has disbanded. Would you be so quick to run outside and start grabbing money off the ground? Probably not! In fact, there would probably be some concern among the building and grounds committee as to who was going to clean up this mess. What's the difference? When you heard "*a million dollars*", your thought was "I want some of that". But when you hear "*a million ruble dollars*" you want somebody else to clean it up. The difference is in what is behind that money. A dead government behind money makes dead money. A functioning government

behind the money makes living money. It is not the value that I affix to the dollar that makes it worth anything, it is the value affixed to the dollar *by the government*.

What does that have to do with our focal text? God - The Eternal and Almighty Creator of all things seen and unseen - has an active and functioning government. In that government, the Kingdom of Heaven, the *coin* that is valuable is not printed on silver, gold, or paper. The *coin* of value to God is the Precious Blood of Christ. There is coming a day when you will stand before God face to face. If you enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, you will only enter by the Blood of Christ. If you gain reward in Heaven before the Judgment Seat of Christ, you will only gain reward for those deeds that you have done *through the Blood of Christ*. The Apostle said:

**1 Corinthians 3:11<sup>NIV</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

You want to get into Heaven? You can only get there by believing on Jesus Christ and the power of His Blood. You want to earn rewards in Heaven? Again, all works must be done *through Christ Jesus our Lord*. Jesus Christ's Blood is the *coin of Heaven*, the admission to that wondrous House of God.

## **1. In Jesus We Have The Riches Of Grace**

**FOCAL Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have<sup>1</sup> redemption<sup>2</sup> through his blood, the forgiveness<sup>3</sup> of sins, according to the riches<sup>4</sup> of his grace;**

The Apostle begins by telling us that we **have redemption**. He does not say we will have, but literally we **keep on having and holding redemption**. The Christian is a present possessor of redemption - we are redeemed *right now*. Once we **trusted and believed in** the finished work of Jesus Christ:

**FOCAL Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed,**

- 1 Present Active Indicative G2192, ἔχω, echō, ekh'-o, A primary verb (including an alternate form οὔρω scheō skheh'-o used in certain tenses only); to *hold* (used in very various applications, literally or figuratively, direct or remote; such as *possession, ability, contiguity, relation* or *condition*): - be (able, X hold, possessed with), accompany, + begin to amend, can (+ -not), X conceive, count, diseased, do, + eat, + enjoy, + fear, following, have, hold, keep, + lack, + go to law, lie, + must needs, + of necessity, + need, next, + recover, + reign, + rest, return, X sick, take for, + tremble, + uncircumcised, use.
- 2 G629, ἀπολύτρωσις, apolutrōsis, ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis, From a compound of G575 and G3083; (the act) *ransom* in full, that is, (figuratively) *riddance*, or (specifically) Christian *salvation*: - deliverance, redemption.
- 3 G859, ἄφεσις, aphesis, af'-es-is, From G863; *freedom*; (figuratively) *pardon*: - deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission.
- 4 G4149, πλοῦτος, ploutos, ploō'-tos, From the base of G4130; *wealth* (as *fulness*), that is, (literally) *money, possessions*, or (figuratively) *abundance, richness*, (specifically) valuable *bestowment*: - riches.

at that point the Coin of Heaven was applied to our good - Blessed Be the Name of the Lord! What were we who are saved redeemed from?

**A** First of all, we were **redeemed from the wrath of God**. Our focal text says:

**FOCAL** Ephesians 1:7 **In whom we have<sup>5</sup> redemption<sup>6</sup> through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,** according to the riches<sup>7</sup> of his grace;

The **forgiveness of sins**? You rarely hear this mentioned now a days, for people don't believe in sin anymore. But I tell you this, God believes in sin. God has **wrath** - a terrible burning anger against sin. If you don't believe me, ask Israel, who found out first hand about the wrath of God. Israel would not believe in God, would not trust God for salvation. God's response was:

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5 Present Active Indicative G2192, ἔχω, echō, ekh'-o, A primary verb (including an alternate form ὀρέω scheō skheh'-o used in certain tenses only); to *hold* (used in very various applications, literally or figuratively, direct or remote; such as *possession, ability, contiguity, relation* or *condition*): - be (able, X hold, possessed with), accompany, + begin to amend, can (+ -not), X conceive, count, diseased, do, + eat, + enjoy, + fear, following, have, hold, keep, + lack, + go to law, lie, + must needs, + of necessity, + need, next, + recover, + reign, + rest, return, X sick, take for, + tremble, + uncircumcised, use.

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**Psalms 78:31-33<sup>NIV</sup> God's anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel. (32) In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe. (33) So he ended their days in futility and their years in terror.**

Some people, reading this, might say "But that's the Old Testament. God is different in the New Testament. He's more loving, more gentle, more kind". Yet the testimony of the Scripture is this:

**John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

What a terrible thing sin is, for it brings the **wrath of God** on creation. In our lives we often confuse ourselves, believing that the weight of sin diminishes with time. Yet Beloved, God is eternal, unending, not tied to time as we are. If you have believed **on the Son you have, right now, everlasting life**. You have been redeemed from death, redeemed from the wrath of God, redeemed from eternal damnation. Our sins are forgiven. Do you notice that the text says,

**FOCAL** Ephesians 1:7 **In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches<sup>8</sup> of his grace;**

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We do not **have the forgiveness of sin**, but we **have the forgiveness of SINS, plural**. Your sins have been forgiven you - you are redeemed if you have believed on Jesus Christ, if He is in your heart by faith. When are your sins forgiven you? Are they forgiven when you cry and beg, when you plead to God enough, when you *work* your way into His good graces. No, no, a thousand times no! The forgiveness is *immediate*, and based on Grace - the **riches of His Grace**. The preacher **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

**"Another man with unforgiven sin about him stands afar off and if he thinks of God at all it is as a consuming fire. But the forgiven Christian looking up to God, when he sees the mountains and the hills, and rolling streams and the roaring flood, he says "My Father made them all;" and he clasps hands with the Almighty across the infinite expanse that sunders man from his Maker. His heart flies up to God. He dwells near to Him, and he feels that he can talk to God as a man talketh with his Friend."**

**B** Secondly, we are **redeemed from the weight of sin**. If you have been saved by faith in Christ, believing on Him and Him alone, then that weight of sin has been lifted from your shoulders. It is easy to tell the difference between a dog and a dove. A dog wags its tail, barks, and smells funny after the rain. He may even shake his coat out on you, and spread that funny smell to you. A dove, however, has little smell, and is the most clean of animals. The dove flies, coos in love toward its mate,

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*abundance, richness, (specifically) valuable bestowment: - riches.*

and is a gentle creature. Likewise, you can tell the difference between a Christian and a *child of disobedience*. The *child of disobedience* rejoices in sin, wallows in the mud of it, and stinks from rubbing against it. The *child of disobedience* is weighed down under his sin, it permeates his being. Though he may mock the concept of sin, you can see the weight of it on his frame.

Compare the *child of disobedience* to the true Christian. Look at the **two thieves** who hung next to Jesus. The unsaved thief, having the weight of sin on him - it's weight drove the nails surely into his hands and feet - cries out selfishly:

**Luke 23:39 .. If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.**

The *child of disobedience* is not sorry for his sin, only sorry that he has been caught. The *child of disobedience* only wants to be freed so he can further sin with impunity. The weight of sin not only pierces the body, but it pierces the soul as well. Yet the Child of Christ, redeemed even in the midst of sin's suffering, says:

**Luke 23:42 ... Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.**

He has no weight of sin or death on him. Christ's Blood is so rich that, even as it was spilled, saved a soul. That thief repented, as did a Centurion (**Matthew 27:54**) who stood at the foot of the Cross. The Christian, like the dove, flies on the wings of the morning. There is no

weight of sin on the believer. That does not mean that we don't sin, for I wager (if I were a wagering man) that there are none who have not sinned in some way, either great or small, this very day. And yet, for we who trust in Christ the **riches of Grace** are sufficient, for what Jesus has done is to **redeem us from sins**. Listen to what the Word of God has to say.

**Micah 7:19 {God} will ... cast all {our} sins into the depths of the sea.**

Where did our sins go on the day of redemption? They were cast into the **depths of the sea**. Not in the *shallows*, where they might be dredged up again, but in the *great deeps*. Isaiah said:

**Isaiah 38:17 ... for thou {o God} hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**

God has thrown my sins behind His back! Can you tell me where God's back is? God has cast our sins behind His back, so they are gone forever. If you are in Jesus Christ then **because of the riches of His Grace** you *cannot be condemned*. The Scripture says:

**Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

The wrath of God is gone, the weight of sin is gone. This

is the **riches of God's Grace**, the redeeming Blood of Christ. Worship Him! He is worthy of worship.

## **2. In Jesus Christ We Have An Inheritance**

**FOCAL** Ephesians 1:11-12 **In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

There are an inordinate number of *professors* in the Church today who *claim to be doves* and yet *live like dogs*. Such a thing is not taught in Scripture, and is an impossibility. There's an old saying, and that is "If it walks like a duck, and talks like a duck, it is a duck". May I say with all the love that I can, if you are walking like a dog, and barking like a dog, you are a dog. The Bible says of the true Christian:

**FOCAL** Ephesians 1:11 **In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

The word which the King James translates **have obtained an inheritance** is only found here in the Greek New Testament<sup>9</sup>. The sense of this word, though

<sup>9</sup> *Vincent's Word Studies* states " **In Him**, Resuming emphatically: in Christ., **We have obtained an inheritance** (**ἐκλήρωθημεν**) Only here in the New Testament. From κληρος a lot. Hence the verb means literally to determine, choose, or assign by lot. From the custom of

difficult, is that *we who believe are God's inheritance and are God's inheritors*. Listen Beloved: *we have an inheritance* - not will have, but *have*. Heaven is as surely your possession *because of the Blood of Christ* as if you were standing in it right now. Let me give you a couple of examples.

Years ago at the beginning of the reign of King David there was a fellow by the name of **Mephibosheth**. I like saying that name - say it with me - **Mephibosheth**. His name, according to *Easton's Bible Dictionary*, means "**Expeller of Shame**", so this boy's parents expected great things for him. His father was **Jonathan**, King David's great friend, the **son of King Saul**. When Mephibosheth was five years old his nurse fell with him, and permanent crippled him in his feet. This poor boy grew up feeling worthless and, truth be told, he was worthless among the Israelites. Crippled in the feet he could do little to earn a living. Though he was a prince, his father Jonathan was dead, and King David sat on the throne. What hope did he have? And yet, one day King David called Mephibosheth in to the palace and literally adopted him as his own. Mephibosheth asked David:

**2 Samuel 9:8 ... What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog**

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assigning portions of land by lot, *κληρος* acquires the meaning of *that which is thus assigned; the possession or portion of land*. So often in the Old Testament. See Sept., [Num 34:14](#); [Deu 3:18](#); [Deu 15:4](#), etc. (First Aorist Passive) *An heir* (*κληρονόμος*) is originally one who obtains by lot. The A.V. here makes the verb active where it should be passive. The literal sense is *we were designated as a heritage*. So Rev., correctly, *were made a heritage*. Compare [Deu 4:20](#), *a people of inheritance* (*λαὸν ἔγκληρον*). Also [Deu 32:8](#), [Deu 32:9](#).

**as I am?**

What did David tell him? He said:

**2 Samuel 9:7 .. I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake ...**

The blood of Jonathan ran through Mephibosheth's veins, and David loved Jonathan. For Jonathan's sake Mephibosheth was blessed. If you have believed on Jesus Christ, then the Blood of Christ has been applied to your life. You belong to God, and God belongs to you. You both *are an inheritance* and *have an inheritance*. There is a robe of righteousness about you because of Jesus. God is in you, and God calls you to walk in Him. The Bible says:

**Ephesians 5:5-8 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (6) Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. (7) Be not ye therefore partakers with them. (8) For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:**

If a Christian, you *are* an inheritor of God's Kingdom.

You *have* a place with Him, at the table of the King, though you may be as weak as Mephibosheth. You belong to God, and God belongs to you. Walk in union one with another, as children of light.

**FOCAL** Ephesians 1:11-12 **In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**

God has already predetermined your course, Beloved of God. As Christians you are going to eat at the King's Table. You are going to live in the King's Palace. You have the King's ear on all requests. Only two classes of people walk into the Judgment Hall of the King without doing so on their knees. One is the fool who knows no better, whereas the other is the son of the King.

If you have believed in Jesus, you are a son of the King. The Scripture says:

Philippians 2:13-15 **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (14) Do all things without murmurings and disputings: (15) That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine**

**as lights in the world;**

You have an inheritance, and *are* an inheritance, if you belong to Jesus Christ by faith. So often I hear preachers preach about sin and how evil it is. Sin is evil, terrible, and deserving of the wrath of God. And yet, Beloved, I would not be so foolish as to explain *the color red* to a *blind person*. Until you experience the color red, until you see it with God given eyes, you will never understand it. So it is with sin and with righteousness.

If are saved through the **riches of His Grace**, by faith have accepted Christ as Savior, your eyes have been opened to righteousness. You know the difference between good and evil. This, too, is your inheritance, that you can walk with God, and not only *can* but *are ordered to do so*. God has predetermined that you will gain your inheritance, that you will grow closer to Him, that you will one day be with Him in yonder Heaven.

I have been to many beautiful art museums, and seen many beautiful works of art, but few are as wondrous as those pictures in the Hall of Calvary. Each of you, saved by faith in Christ, have already been determined by God to one day be a *masterpiece*, **to the praise of His glory**. Jesus Christ came to make masterpieces, to **bring**

Hebrews 2:10 ... **many sons unto glory**, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Some of you may have wandered away from God and wandered into the hog trough, the fields of sin. I heard

years ago how a man purchased a picture at a yard sale and, on getting home, discovered that there was another painting underneath the painting he purchased. So he went to the art store and purchased something that would wash the top painting off. Once he had carefully cleaned the cheaper color off he discovered, to his delight, a priceless work from a great master artist of long ago. He needed to clean that top coat off in order to see the masterpiece underneath. I tell you, Beloved, sin in the life of a Christian is like that top coat of cheap paint. Sin covers the luster and the beauty of Christ Jesus in you. Some of you, like the Prodigal Son, may be coming to your senses now and may be realizing what unconfessed sin in your life has done to your walk with God. In your heart you may be thinking:

**Luke 15:21 Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.**

On that day the Father did not agree with His son. He did not say, "You're right, you're not worthy! You must do such and such to work your way back into my good Graces, else you can stay away from the family." No My Beloved, but the Father - with joy in His heart - said:

**Luke 15:22-24 ... Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: (23) And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: (24) For**

**this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.** And they began to be merry.

Praise be unto God for the riches of His Grace! Praise be to Jesus Christ for the Blood He shed for you and for me.

### **3. Because of Jesus Christ, You Are Sealed**

**FOCAL** Ephesians 1:13-14 ... **in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed<sup>10</sup> with that Holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

If you belong to God by faith in Christ, then the Bible is clear. You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. God is *now*, right now, inside of you! Can you imagine this? I truly

**I stand amazed in the presence,  
Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean.  
For me it was in the Garden,  
He prayed, not My will but Thine.  
He had no tears for His own griefs,**

<sup>10</sup> *Aorist Passive Indicative* G4972, σφραγίζω, sphragizō, *sfrag-id'-zo*, From G4973; to *stamp* (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication to *keep secret*, to *attest*: - (set a, set to) seal up, stop.

## But sweat drops of Blood for mine!<sup>11</sup>

There are two interesting things in this verse. First of all, the Spirit of God *seals* the believer. This word means *to stamp or impress*. In ancient times when a letter was sealed, wax was placed on the seal, then the ring of the sender was pressed into the cooling wax. The "seal" therefore showed the official mark of the sender, authenticating the parcel or letter. If you are saved by the **riches of His Grace**, then God's mark is in your life. God does not enter a vessel and not change it in some way. I am not speaking here of so called *Christian perfection*, for I do not believe there is such a thing in this life, but I speak of the Indwelling Spirit of God. When God entered the Temple, it is said that the Shekinah glory of God shown round about. When Moses saw the Lord and returned from the mountain, his face shone with God's glory. Beloved, where God is, lives change.

You belong to God, and God belongs to you. The Christian is not a powerless being, a shaved dog, but is a new creature in Christ. My prayer is that you would understand

**Ephesians 1:19 ... the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,**

God *Who is in you is at work in you*, if you belong to

Him. The Precious Spirit of God is

**Ephesians 3:20 ... able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**

The same God Who said to Israel:

**Psalms 81:10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

is the same God Who says to you, **open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.**

**Illustrate** I was in a certain place the other day, and listened with amusement to a baby who was hiccuping. How can you stop a baby from hiccuping? I watched the parent shake the child, play with the child, and even try to scare the child. Nothing worked. Finally the child stopped. How do you, dear friend, stop from hiccuping? You first of all recognize that it is an unnatural event, something that you shouldn't be doing. If you believe it to be quite natural you will do nothing to fight it. But if you recognize it as unnatural you will *resist* it. You may drink some water while holding your breath, or just hold your breath. But you will resist the urge until, in time, the unnatural passes. So it is with the Christian and sin. God is in you, and you are in God. Though you may be surrounded by a world of sinners, God in you bids you walk in Him. In the world it is natural to hate and to get

<sup>11</sup> *I Stand Amazed In The Presence*, by Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

revenge. In the Christ it is natural to *love* and to *forgive*. In the world it is natural to satisfy self. In the Christ it is natural to *satisfy others*. In the world it is natural to strive and seek. In the Christ it is natural to *follow peace with all men, and to give*.

If, in your Christian walk, you have moved into the *hiccup of sin*, then you need only come to your senses. Look once more on Him Who, not only dying for you, rose again and assured you Heaven. The preacher **David Martyn Lloyd - Jones** said:

**"lift up your eyes and see, awaiting us, "the hope of His calling" and "the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints". the "inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away", reserved in Heaven "for us who are in Christ". It is all prepared, and it is all a part of the riches of His Grace. We shall see Him as He is, and we shall be with Him, we shall reign with Him, we shall enjoy Him, we shall be like Him and lords of the universe with Him. When we return to God in repentance and faith we do not do so as servants, for we are adopted sons! And we are to enjoy all that our Father's heart and love have prepared for us. .... Poor pauper! Rise up, and in your rags and penury go to Him and begin to receive the riches of His Grace. Believe Him when He tells you that all this and infinitely more is available now. Hold out your hand and receive it, and you will soon be rejoicing and amazed at the riches of His Grace."**

May God open your hearts to the riches of His Grace!



Rock Hill Baptist Church  
605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, TN 38351

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