

Transforming Grace
Part 7
Far Greater Riches

Ephesians 1:15-23 & Hebrews 11:24-27

Introduction:

Extraterrestrials & Expatriates

- Following in the Footsteps of Joseph, Esther, Daniel & many other "Expatriates"

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesian Expatriates seeking to "Walk Worthy of the Calling":

- That They might Know God.

- That They might Accurately See Themselves in Christ.

Comprehending the Glory of Our Rich Inheritance - vv. 15-18 [Today]

Experiencing the Greatness of Christ's Resurrection Power - vv. 19-23 [Resurrection Sunday]

I. Follow Moses' Example by Enjoying Moses' Vision Hebrews 11:24-28

We Nurture Godliness and Starve Worldliness, not by Crushing our Desires but by Keeping...

A. Our True Identity in View. vv. 24-25a

"The ordinary idea which we all have before we become Christians is this. We take as starting point our ordinary self with its various desires and interests. We then admit that something else—call it 'morality' or 'decent behavior', or 'the good of society'—has claims on this self: claims which interfere with its own desires. What we mean by 'being good' is giving in to those claims. . . . In fact, we are very like an honest man paying his taxes. He pays them all right, but he does hope that there will be enough left over for him to live on. Because we are still taking our natural self as the starting point.

"As long as we are thinking that way, one or other of two results is likely to follow. Either we give up trying to be good, or else we become very unhappy indeed. . . .

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

New Creations
Adopted Sons & Daughters of God
Our Union with Christ
The Priesthood of Every Believer
An Individual Conscience
The Bride of Christ
God's Own Special People
Etc.

B. Sin's **Pleasures** in Right Perspective. v. 25b

C. Christ's **Reward** before Our Eyes. v. 26

D. God **Visible** & (therefore) the **Fear** of Man in Check. v. 27

II. Believe that God wants far better things for you than you do.

"The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says 'Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. . . . Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked—the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours' "

C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

"Let a man set his heart only on doing the will of God and he is instantly free. If we understand our first and sole duty to consist of loving God supremely and loving everyone, even our enemies, for God's dear sake, then we can enjoy spiritual tranquility under every circumstance."

A.W. Tozer

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Hebrews 12:24-28

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.