

-STUDIES IN EPHESIANS- #13

The word **RICHERS** occurs 5 times in Eph. Five is the number of grace, so we would naturally expect **RICHERS** to be in some way connected with grace. And so it is, for we have not only riches of His grace (1:7), but we have the exceeding riches of His grace (2:7). But let us take up the references in their order.

1. 1:7. It is in Christ that we have redemption from the death that came upon all the children of Adam. The price of that redemption was the precious blood of Christ. In that redemption, bought with His blood, was included forgiveness of sins, thus making peace. All this according to the **RICHERS** of the grace of God. These riches are far beyond our limited comprehension.

2. 1:18. This is a part of Paul's prayer for the saints. There are three things he prays that they might know. This knowledge can never be obtained without the eyes of the understanding being enlightened. The second thing he wants them to know is the **RICHERS** of the glory of His inheritance (Christ's) in the saints. Of course it had been known to ages and generations that Israel should be Christ's inheritance, but the mystery was that He should have the Gentiles for an inheritance upon the failure of Israel.

3. 2:7. The **RICHERS** of being quickened together with Christ, raised up together with Him, and seated with Him in the heavenlies seems incomprehensible to the majority. But that is only the beginning of the **RICHERS**. This makes possible the fact that in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding **RICHERS** of His grace in His kindness toward us thru Christ Jesus. What a Savior and God!

4. 3:8. Unto Paul was given grace that he might preach the unsearchable (untrackable, untraceable) **RICHERS** of Christ **AMONG THE GENTILES**. There is no trace of this great gospel in all the prophets, or in any Scriptures up to this time. It was a mystery that had been hid. This was an eternal purpose. How vital to you and to me!

5. 3:16. The first mention was the **RICHERS OF GRACE**, but here it is the **RICHERS OF GLORY**. In both the word **ACCORDING** is present. Here is a prayer that we might be strengthened according to the **RICHERS** of His glory so that Christ may dwell in our hearts by ???

-THE MEETING IN THE AIR-

In Bullinger's Critical Lexicon and Concordance **MEET** is defined as meaning; "To come or go from a place towards a person; and so to meet face to face from opposite directions; esp., to meet and come back with the person."

Looking in Hudson's Greek and English Concordance we find that the word **MEET** as used in 1 Thess. 4:17 is *apan-tesis*. It is used here with *eis* and also the same in three other places. Let us look at them.

1. Matt. 25:1. "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins which took their lamps and went forth to **MEET** the bridegroom." We know that according to the customs of the times these virgins would go out to meet the bridegroom and come back with him. So we can establish a part of the meaning here at least. But the Companion Bible note says that the Greek word here in the texts is *hupantesis*, as it is in John 12:13. There it reads, "Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to **MEET** Him." We read further that He went right on into the city and they with Him. So this agrees with Matt. 25:1.

2. Matt. 25:6. "go ye out to **MEET** him." This is again about the wedding and meeting and coming back with the bridegroom.

3. Acts 28:15. "they came to **MEET** us as far as Apia forum." Here the brethren came out from Rome, met Paul, and went back with him.

4. 1 Thess. 4:17. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to **MEET** the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Long after the writing of this epistle Paul said that he was bound for the hope of Israel (Acts 28:20). The hope of Israel was the coming of the Lord to set up His kingdom here on the earth. Paul was comforting some of the folks who had friends and relatives who had died before the coming of the Lord had taken place and they were worried as to what would become of them. Paul says plainly to them that when the Lord comes, both the living and the dead who are looking for that coming will be caught up to **MEET** Him in the air and come back with Him as He keeps on to His course to the earth and so will they ever be with Him. Check this carefully!

-TILL HE COME-

In TFT #74 appeared an article which gave three reasons why that I, a Gentile, could not partake of the Lord's Supper. There is a fourth reason which is so important that a separate article must be given to it. That reason is that I, having received and believed the truth of the dispensation of the mystery and having the hope of heaven and not of the kingdom, do not expect or look for the Lord's coming.

Just as a matter of review, we must note that the Lord gave a new meaning to the Passover or Lord's Supper. It was to be done in remembrance of Him. He said that He would no more observe it until He did so with them in the Father's kingdom. See Matt. 26:29. Mark 14:25. Luke 22:15 (called Passover) 16, 18. It is noteworthy that John does not give any account of this event because he was writing after Acts and to and for us Gentiles. See John 1:11.

In 1 Cor. 10 and 11 Paul is speaking to the Jewish members of the Corinthian church, for in 10:1 he speaks of their fathers being under the cloud and passing thru the sea and does not mention the Gentile members till 12:2. When we see the context, it is easy to see why that he should be speaking to Jews in 10 and 11. He is giving instructions about the observance of a Jewish feast. This was a part of the law (Lev. 23) and the council at Jerusalem had absolved the Gentiles from all responsibility to the law, but recognized that God was dealing with them in grace. Read Acts 15.

But the notable thing we should notice in 1 Cor. 11 is that in verse 26 Paul says that they do shew the Lord's death till He come. The Lord's coming is the hope of the kingdom, and pertains to those who will live on the earth in resurrection. It is for those who, if they are meek, will inherit the earth. This inheritance is for the seed of Abraham, thru Isaac and thru Jacob, limited to the 12 tribes.

But the members of the church of the dispensation of the mystery do not look for His coming. Rather, they look for His manifestation (epiphaneia) in the heavenly places. They will be present at the great coronation preceding the coming.

In view of all these things, it would be impossible for me to walk worthy of my calling and at the same time partake of the Lord's Supper. What think you?

-THE CONDITIONS FOR LIFE-

The penalty for Adam's sin was death. Sacrifice of an animal and being clothed with the skins took care of sin and restored fellowship with God. But the hope of a resurrection, which was the only answer to death, was in the Seed of woman who would crush the serpent's head. If Adam put his trust in that, and we are pretty sure that he did, then Adam will be resurrected to enter into the new earth.

Job had a knowledge of his Redeemer. How he obtained this knowledge, we do not know. It is reasonable to suppose that he lived before Moses did. He may have had access to the tablets written by Adam and others after him, but this we do know; he spoke more of the stars of the heavens than all the rest of the writers combined. Those of you who have read "The Witness of the Stars" by Bullinger or even App. No. 12 in the Companion Bible, will realize that Job may have had the message of the stars pure and uncontaminated as yet by heathen mythology. So he too could see in the heavens the strong One ready to crush the head of the serpent. This was his Redeemer and he believed. Job also has the hope of resurrection and an entrance into the new earth.

After the choosing of Abram from Ur of the Chaldees we find that Gentiles still could know God. An example is Melchisedec. Also Balaam and others may be mentioned.

Peter was forced to admit "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him." Acts 10:34, 35.

At both Lystra and Athens, when Paul was in the presence of raw heathen who knew nothing of the Scriptures, a gospel was preached which was akin to the everlasting gospel proclaimed by the angel in Rev. 14:7. It was to give glory to God the Creator. This also is similar to the confession of Peter in the house of Cornelius.

We may be surprised at the great multitudes of so-called heathen who have been saved simply by realizing that there is a Creator, indicated by His handiwork, and have worshipped Him and put their trust in Him. We have no reason to doubt that God would reveal Himself to any who diligently seeks Him out.

All these in no way change the truth of John 3:16. See John 1:3.

-STRUCTURAL STUDIES- #2

Last time we were introduced to the 2 main forms of structure and some examples were given of alternation.

Now we take up introversion. In its simple form it would appear thus;

- A / -----
- B / -----
- B / -----
- A / -----

A simple text to illustrate this may be found in John 8:47. It would work out thus;

- A / He that is of God
- B / heareth God's words:
- B / ye therefore hear them not,
- A / because ye are not of God.

This may be extended into most any number of pairs. In Isa. 6:10 we find 3 pairs;

- A / heart
- B / ears
- C / eyes
- C / eyes
- B / ears
- A / heart

Also you may find sometimes that it may work out in pairs for all the members, but only one member in the center. An example is the occurrences of the word *epouranios* (heavenlies) in the book of Eph. Thus;

- A / 1:3 Us, blessed. Spiritual.
- B / 1:20 Principalities and powers.
- C / Us. Seated.
- B / 3:10 Principalities and powers.
- A / 6:12 We, wrestle. Wickedness.

Very, very often the occurrences of words or phrases may be put on a structure like this. Then note the pairs and how they explain each other and especially note the central one or pair as the case may be. The central one of course gives the main that or theme of the whole argument. In the above example we find that the message that is brot forward is that we are seated in the heavenlies in Christ, and with a purpose; that God might shew to us the exceeding riches of His grace in the ages to come. This is the very heart of Ephesians.

Now turn to Rom. 10:9, 10 and see if you can make a simple one for yourself. You have two words, heart and mouth.

I am sure that you will enjoy your Bible so much more if you will pay a little attention to these structures and note how they explain the Word.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS; What would you think of the chances of a man going up to bat with three strikes against him? Not much chance? A pretty hopeless situation, we would say! He is not even entitled to a ball. In fact, he is out.

The very mention of such a thing is rather humorous, to say the least. But there may be a case in which it may be true. The young person facing life without Christ is in just such a predicament. He already has three strikes against him. They are the world, the flesh, and the devil.

1. **THE WORLD.** The world hated Christ. It hated Him without a cause. The world murdered the Prince of life, the only One thru whom there could be a hope of life beyond the death which is thru Adam. So if you do not have Christ, you are aligned with that crowd which is at enmity with Him and which refuses the gift of eternal life. The course of the world is ever downward. It may give happiness for a season, but it can never give joy. Its rewards are only transient. Today you may be famous. Tomorrow you may be forgotten and starving in some miserable hovel. The world knows no mercy nor does it spare the weak.

2. **THE FLESH.** In the flesh can dwell no good thing. At its best, even when it seems to be producing righteousness, in the sight of God it is as but filthy rags. Everything sown to the flesh brings forth only corruption (loss). The flesh is as the grass of the field. Today it may flourish and be beautiful. Tomorrow it may wither away and be forgotten. Every man, in the flesh, is slated for death from which there is no return. Resurrection can only come from having a new nature, a spiritual one.

3. **THE DEVIL.** He would deceive you. He will tell you that what the Word says is not true. He will tell you that good folks go to heaven and make you think that you can enjoy the world and the flesh and hope that something might happen and you will squeeze thru. By such deception he first brot death and destruction upon the human race. He still deceives. Without the Lord Jesus Christ who is truth and life, you do not have a chance. The devil is much too smart for you. He would make you miss life. Death rides with him.

No harm in thinking it over.
Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

WELCOME to the Bible class held each Tue. nite at our house. The time is 7:30 and you will find us 4 miles south of Atwood, 6 miles west of Warsaw, or 7 miles northeast of Mentone on the Harrison Center Rd. Drive over next week.

Denton Abbey of Mentone flew Mae and me to Lake Bluff in his Piper Nov. 13. Had a nice visit with Elroy and Dorothy and worked some more on the Welch itinerary.

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Smith of Joliet, Ill. dropped in on us for a little visit Nov. 14.

TFT; Can furnish back copies back to #62 and a few odds and ends beyond that, maybe. They are free for the asking.

TIME now for renewals and new subscriptions for the Berean Expositor. It is listed at 87¢, but since that hardly covers the expense, many send in \$1.

If you would like to read the life story of Charles H. Welch, read it in the Berean Expositor, vols. 35, 36. We have a supply of these at \$1.50 and \$1.88 resp.

We have made up a new supply of The New Covenant by J. Eustace Mills. It is a 20 page mimeographed study. 45¢ each or 3 for \$1.20. You should read this.

Just got supply of Who Then is Paul by Welch. Each 8¢, 12 for 60¢, 25 for 90¢, or 50 for \$1.50. Copies of The Dispositional Frontier at same prices.

Now have a stock of reprints from the pen of Sir Robert Anderson, two of them. The Silence of God \$2.50. The Coming Prince \$3.95. These were favorites.

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM!

THE BABBLER; Editor, A. J. Harrop, 5 Scutari Rd., E. Dulwich, London, England. You should be getting this fine little magazine. There is no subscription price, but a little to help with the expenses would be appreciated. Either write direct or I can take care of it.

THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK; Editor, Norman C. Cooper, 101 Turves Green, Northfield, Birmingham 31, England. Same general information as for the magazine above.

WISE MEN GAVE GIFTS TO HIM; NOT TO EACH OTHER.

TAPE TO LEND: The Christian's Greatest Need by E. W. Bullinger. All of you ought to hear this one. Be sure to state speed of your recorder. No charge for the use of the tape.

JUST ARRIVED: Reprints of THE TWO NATURES IN THE CHILD OF GOD by E. W. Bullinger. They are 60¢ each.

All book prices include the postage.

Mr. Welch is still going forward with his plans to visit us next spring. Latest word was that his vaccination had not taken yet. Those wishing to help with the expense of the trip may send their money to Elroy B. Robinson, 711 Woodland Rd., Knollwood, Lake Bluff, Ill. He will send a receipt. In the near future a form letter will be sent out to the various places he will visit asking for details, such as the place of meeting, the time, whom to contact in that area for information, etc. These must be returned promptly as we have to have this information in the hands of Mr. Welch by the last of Jan. This will be published in Berean Expositor and all TFT subscribers will get the information too.

THE SIGNATURE, Oscar & Mae, has brot quite a response. We now know many of you by your names, such as Bill & Barbara, Oliver & Violet, Charles & Winifred, Martin & B, George & Jean, Sam & Mary Ellen, Charles & Rosa, Alfred and Hanna, Thomas & Agnes, Fred & Sophie, Harold & Grace, Art & Ruth, Lloyd & Lu Etta, Marlyn & Thelma, Dale & Helena, Frank & Lucile, Edward & Arta June, Calvin & Edith. We could go on with more, but space forbids. We like to think of the teamwork for the Lord represented in all these. Paul often spoke lovingly of Aquila & Priscilla.

FREE FOR THE ASKING, "Reconciliation," a 14 page pamphlet by Charles H. Welch. Write right now!

COMPANION BIBLES, full leather \$24. Quarter leather \$16. Buckram \$12. We have enough of these for the season's demands this year.

What is the ability of God? Eph. 3:20.

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