

“A Picture Of A Transformed Life”

Ephesians 1:1-2

Sermon Series: “Be Rich”

Introduction: We are beginning a long journey through Paul’s letter to the Ephesians today. We are going to see the inexhaustible riches of Christ and the incredible spiritual riches we have in Him through this study. We are going to begin with Paul’s greeting. He starts, as was common in ancient letters, by introducing himself. What he writes about himself is important for at least two significant reasons:

-His transformed life is evidence of the truthfulness of the gospel.

-His transformed life is an example for us of what a life genuinely transformed by Jesus actually looks like (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

Main Idea: Jesus transforms lives.

So, we are going to answer two crucial questions. What does a life transformed by Jesus actually look like? How does Jesus transform our lives? Let’s learn this through Paul’s example.

1. The Characteristics of a Transformed Life:

A. A Transformed Heart-Jesus regenerated Paul, which means He made him spiritually alive. Jesus gives us a new heart which gives us new desires (Ephesians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17).

B. A Transformed Character-In 1 Timothy 1:13, Paul describes his pre-conversion character as “a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man” (insolent means “violently arrogant”), but he urged the church at Corinth to “imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” He never attributed this change to his own

efforts or righteousness but only to the work of Jesus in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 3:8-10).

C. A Transformed Master-Paul went from living for himself to being a bondservant of Jesus (Romans 1:1). He called Jesus “Lord” when he met Him on the Damascus Road and lives the rest of his life under the Lordship of Christ.

D. A Transformed Mission-Paul’s mission was no longer to advance Judaism, but he became an apostle of Jesus whose mission was to make disciples of Jesus among Jews and Gentiles.

E. A Transformed Message-His message became the gospel of Jesus (see verse 2 and Romans 1:1). He went from telling people to keep the Law to teaching that the Law condemns us and reveals that only Jesus can save us from our sins.

F. A Transformed Motive-He went from living to pridefully advance in Judaism to living for the glory of God (Galatians 1:24).

The world tells us that living for Jesus is foolish, but the way the world is living is not working. We need our lives to be transformed and only Jesus can truly accomplish that. We need a new heart so our character can be transformed. We need Jesus as our Master because we ruin our lives when we are in control. We need a mission worth living and dying for that is of eternal value. We need the message of the gospel because it is transforming truth. We need to live for the glory of God instead of our own pride.

2. The Cause of a Transformed Life: Our text tells us that we are transformed “by the will of God.” By literally means “efficient cause.” God chooses us and works powerfully and graciously to save us so we cannot take credit for it (1 Corinthians 1:26-31). He saves us through faith but even that is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). **Jesus chose, called, and pursued Paul (Acts 9:5), and I believe He is doing the same to you so trust Jesus and surrender to Him as your Lord so your life will be transformed.**