EPHESIANS CHAP. 1.1-10 – *OUR HOPE:* **JESUS!**

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON??

- In the world around us, both locally and globally
- In your life right now . .

WE NEED SOME ANSWERS AND DIRECTION

- We are tired of political adds and empty promises
- The cost of living is troubling
- Many are feeling hopeless, discouraged
- We need hope and encouragement!
- Where can we find that?

EPHESIANS 1.1-10, NIV

- Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
- To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:
- 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

- In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

- 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us.

- With all wisdom and understanding, [9] he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, [10] to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

HOW DOES PAUL START HIS LETTER?

- Grace and peace to you
- from God our Father
- and the Lord Jesus Christ.

WAIT A MINUTE . . WHERE IS PAUL WHEN HE WRITES THIS?

- He is in Rome under house arrest awaiting trial
- He should be discouraged?!!!
- *But he is full of faith and the assurance of his and our salvation!*

GRACE & MERCY

- God's Riches At Christ's Expense
- **Mercy:** Cop lets you go
- **Grace:** Cop pays your ticket!

PEACE

- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
  - Philippians 4.7

PAUL DIDN'T KNOW WHAT JOHN WOULD WRITE LATER:

- 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**
  - John 1

WHO HAS BLESSED US IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN CHRIST. (VERSE 3)

- *Every spiritual blessing*
- *In Christ* -
- ***Jesus Himself*** is our Blessing!

- **4** *For he chose us in him*
- Who chose us? The Triune God!
- When? *before the creation of the world*
- *to be holy and blameless in his sight.*
- How? It's only because of and through 'HIM!'

- In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ,
- in accordance with his pleasure and will—
- [6] to the praise of his glorious grace,
- which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

- 7 In him we have redemption through his blood,
- the forgiveness of sins,
- in accordance with the riches of God's grace
- 8 that he lavished on us.

LAVISHED ON US

- *in accordance with the riches of God's grace*
- *8 that he lavished on us.*
- "abound, overflow, rich abundance"
- We often underestimate God's grace!

- With all wisdom and understanding,
- 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will
- according to his good pleasure,
- which he purposed in Christ,

- 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—
- to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth
- under Christ.

WHAT GOOD NEWS! PAUL WROTE THIS IN ROMANS 8:

- 31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

OUT WITH FEAR,

IN WITH GRACE!

- The government can't solve our problems
- The medical world cannot heal all our diseases
- Money won't give us lasting happiness and peace
- So how do we find that peace?

- ***IT'S ONLY WHEN WE KNOW WE ARE IN CHRIST THAT WE ARE SECURE***

- Have you come to Jesus?
- Take time - slow down
- Review – meditate
- GIGO: God in, God out

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU TODAY FROM OUR LORD JESUS!