

## **Series: UNIFIED**

### **Title: Opulent Riches**

### **Speaker: Bob Marvel**

### **Date: June 22-23, 2019**

#### Intro

Have you ever been so excited to tell someone something that you just go on, and on, and on? That's what is happening as Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians. Ephesians 1:3-14 form the longest sentence not only in the entire Bible but also in all of ancient Greek literature! What makes this even harder is there is no punctuation in ancient Greek. So what does he want them to see? Later in 3:3, Paul explains that God's revealed a mystery to him and that he's responsible to explain it. He's so excited he just can't keep quiet about it.

1. In verses 1:8-10 Paul states what God's ultimate plan for the world is. How would you describe the big picture in your own words? What's the key phrase Paul uses to explain how we become connected to God's mission?
2. Why is it important to know there is a big picture of what God is doing? What might happen if you go through life without knowing it? Why is it also important to know the big picture, (Ephesians 1-3) before you know the specifics, (Ephesians 4-6)?
3. This long sentence is a doxology: a song or speech that honors God. Here he celebrates what God has done in Christ. It's broken down into three parts, one for each member of the Trinity, starting with the Father, then the Son, and finally the Holy Spirit. Each stanza ends with "to the praise of His glory".
4. Slowly read how Paul honors the Father in verses 1-6. What stands out to you in here? How long has God been planning his mission? How does it strike you to know that God has an infinite love for you and has loved you for so long? What's your reaction to Paul stating that God has chosen you?
5. Verses 1:4, 5, and 11-13 talk about predestination. What extremes should we avoid in thinking that God is in control of everything, and yet we have free will? Using Acts 3:18-19, how did Bob answer this question?

"His will may be disobeyed, but his ultimate purpose cannot be frustrated." – F.F. Bruce

6. Take your time reading 1:7-12 where Paul blesses the Son. One of the reasons we praise the Lord Jesus is for the redemption he provides us. Look up Exodus 20:2. What does redemption mean? What bondage, what tyrant has he redeemed us from? Check out Ephesians 2:1.
7. And now read verses 13 & 14. Here Paul credits the Holy Spirit. How do these verses explain God's part in salvation and our response? What does they say about our relationship with the Spirit?
8. Looking at verse 22, what's the name of God's enterprise, his mission here on earth?
9. Since God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have all said your life is infinitely valuable to them, how could that effect your identity and worth? How would that help a depressed or suicidal person?
10. What else did you pick up from these Opulent Riches?