

The background of the entire slide is a photograph of ancient stone ruins, likely from the Roman or Greek era. The ruins consist of large, rectangular stone blocks arranged in a grid-like pattern, forming what appears to be a walkway or a foundation for a larger structure. The stones are weathered and have a warm, brownish-tan color. In the upper right corner, there is a glowing orange cross, which is a simple outline with a bright light at its center. The overall atmosphere is one of historical significance and spiritual reflection.

Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

**In Him**

# Ephesians: In Him



## Series in Ephesians...

- ❖ Understanding who I am
- ❖ Becoming who we are

## Ephesus the City (Paul in Ephesus Acts 19)

### Identity is at the core of our lives

- ❖ Our actions & self-perception flow from identity
- ❖ In Him we have every spiritual blessing...
  - ❖ In Him we have been chosen (holy, blameless)
  - ❖ In Him we have been adopted



# Ephesians: In Him



## Ephesians 1:6-14

<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

# Ephesians: In Him



## Ephesians 1:6-14

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,<sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



# Ephesians: In Him



## IN HIM we have Redemption

- ❖ Biblical idea of redemption is to buy back or pay a ransom to free from slavery
- ❖ Implications of our redemption...
  - ❖ Forgiveness of sin
  - ❖ Mystery revealed
  - ❖ United with Christ
  - ❖ Participation in his ultimate plan
    - ❖ We do not need to fear about what will happen

# Ephesians: In Him



## Luke 21:25-28

<sup>25</sup> “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,<sup>26</sup> people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”



# Ephesians: In Him



IN HIM we have Redemption

IN HIM we have an Inheritance

- ❖ The unlikelyst of heirs...
- ❖ Implications of our Inheritance...
  - ❖ Full rights of a family member
  - ❖ Hope beyond today
  - ❖ The “praise of his glory”

# Ephesians: In Him



IN HIM we have Redemption

IN HIM we have an Inheritance

IN HIM we have been sealed

- ❖ Receiving the Holy Spirit... Can there be a greater gift?
- ❖ Implications of being sealed by the Holy Spirit...
  - ❖ New person... Heard the truth, believed the truth, sealed by the Truth... Indwelt by the Truth!
  - ❖ We do not need to fear losing our inheritance
  - ❖ One day we will acquire possession of it



# Ephesians: In Him



How do we live in light of this?

## ❖ Hearts of Gratitude & Praise

- ❖ We have been forgiven! We are free!
- ❖ In light of what we have been given, our response must be one of thanksgiving and praise
- ❖ Romans 1... <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

# Ephesians: In Him



A.W. Tozer “The Pursuit of God”..

“So the life of man upon the earth is a life away from the Presence, wrenched loose from that "blissful center" which is our right and proper dwelling place, our first estate which we kept not, the loss of which is the cause of our unceasing restlessness.”



# Ephesians: In Him



How do we live in light of this?

❖ Hearts of Gratitude & Praise

❖ Give God the Glory

- ❖ As his children our “chief” purpose is to glorify God and enjoy him forever
- ❖ It is only as we cease trying to bring glory to ourselves and begin to give God the glory due his name, we find our fulfillment

# Ephesians: In Him



How do we live in light of this?

- ❖ Hearts of Gratitude & Praise
- ❖ Give God the Glory
- ❖ Open our eyes to what we already have
  - ❖ We have no reason to doubt God's love for us or that he will take away our inheritance
  - ❖ There is nothing in the world that can match what God has given us
  - ❖ We need to remember who God is and who we are



# Ephesians: In Him



**A.W. Tozer “The Pursuit of God”..**

“The world is perishing for lack of the knowledge of God, and the Church is famishing for want of His Presence. The instant cure of most of our religious ills would be to enter the Presence in spiritual experience, to become suddenly aware that we are in God and that God is in us. This would lift us out of our pitiful narrowness and cause our hearts to be enlarged. This would burn away the impurities from our lives as the bugs and fungi were burned away by the fire that dwelt in the bush.”