

Ephesians 1:15-23

We saw last week that God has blessed us, chosen us, predestined us, graced us, and made known to us the mystery of His will...and He has done it all through Christ for those who would listen and believe. And if we have listened and believed, He has sealed us and secured us with His Holy Spirit.

Now we come to verses 15-23 where Paul turns his focus from the Lord to His church in Ephesus.

READ/PRAY

D. Martin Lloyd Jones said, *“We must never forget that this is a pastoral letter, and that its purpose was thoroughly practical. The Apostle must not be thought of as a theologian who sits down to write a theological disquisition; his object was to help Christians, to strengthen them and to encourage them in their daily Christian living.”*

The occasion for this portion of the letter is to communicate to the church at Ephesus how Paul prays for them. There are 2 main parts of his prayer that he highlights for them: his thanksgiving for them and his intercession for them.

I. Thanksgiving v15-16

What is it that Paul gives thanks for?

1. Faith

- a. Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*
- b. James 2:14-26
- c. This isn't just faith, in general. It is a specific faith.
- d. Faith...in particular....faith in the Lord Jesus.
- e. This was a real, visible, working and lasting faith...and it still existed there now, years later as Paul wrote from prison!

2. Love

- a. 1 John 3:23 *This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.*
- b. The eleventh commandment
- c. John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*

II. Intercession

v17—What is it that Paul prays for the church at Ephesus?

Colossians 1:9

There are 2 ways we receive wisdom and revelation

1. Outward: when someone shares with you the Word
2. Inward: when the Holy Spirit applies your own reading of the Word

Notice, that the end goal is not a deep and mysterious knowledge of the deep and mysterious intricacies of God's Word. No... This knowledge, wisdom, and revelation is rooted in Him!

1. Christ should be our focus.
2. And when our eyes focus on Him, they see the light! v18a
3. 2 Corinthians 4:6 *For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

So that...3 things.

1. **They might know what is the hope of His calling** **v18b**
 - a. This is referring to his effectual call...not just a general call
 - b. And if we have experienced this, it should give us hope!
 1. That God has opened our eyes and called us to Himself
 2. John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name*
 3. John 6:37 *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.*
 - c. Ephesians 4:4
2. **They might know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints** **v18c**
 - a. Ephesians 1:11
 - b. Revelation 21:1-7

3. They might know what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. v19a

Moral reformation is not enough. Pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps isn't enough. What we need is to be impacted by the almighty power of God.

Colossians 1:29

Ephesians 3:7

Conclusion v19b-23

1. It is the same power that rose Jesus from the dead, caused him to ascend into to heaven, sat him down at the right hand of the Father, and placed Him above every power and name, and put all things under his feet, in subjection to Him...that calls us to Himself.
 - a. This is not a minor work of God
 - b. This is a powerful working of God!
2. It is the same power that rose Jesus etc. that provides for us an inheritance.
3. It is the same power that rose Jesus etc. that is directed toward us!
 - a. The mighty power of God (the surpassing greatness) is pointed toward us...his church!
 - b. And the church is made up of individuals...imagine if we believed this?!
 - c. Ephesians 3:20