

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 1:15-23 – Paul prayed for opened eyes to see present realities!

Today's Message:

"Open our eyes, Lord"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of the incredible riches of God's grace – God's Riches At Christ's Expense. All that we have in Christ has been made possible because of His love and sacrifice. Today, we will focus on three great realities Paul wanted the believers to understand clearly. We know that people can sit in church every week, hear Bible truth, carry the Bible, sing hymns, and still live spiritually below what God has provided. Saved people can still live discouraged. Forgiven people can still live defeated. And so, Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers to have *the eyes of their understanding enlightened* to know these realities. Because one moment of divine light can change how you perceive every burden, every fear, every trial, and every life experience for the rest of your life. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 1:15-23

A. To Know the Hope of His Calling

1. God wants you to have complete confidence and trust in your **FUTURE** with Him!

Important Note

Discouraged believers may forget where God is taking them!

2 Corinth 4:4

*In whom the god of this world hath **blinded the minds** of them which believe not...*

Psalms 119:18

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

- **Ephesians 1:15** – Wherefore... after I heard of **your faith** in the Lord Jesus... **and love**...
- **Ephesians 1:16** – Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you **in my prayers**;
- **Ephesians 1:17** – That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him**;
- **Ephesians 1:18** – The **EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING** being **enlightened**; **THAT YE MAY KNOW what is the hope of his calling**...

"Spirit of wisdom and revelation" – spiritual perception of revealed truth; understanding

"Eyes of your understanding" – the heart has eyes; spiritual sight may be blurred by sin

"Enlightened" – illuminated by God's grace; given a clear view of Scriptural truth written

"The HOPE of His calling" – guaranteed; a future secured by His purpose, ending in glory

Comparing Scriptures

- **Psalms 19:8** – ... the commandment of the LORD is pure, **enlightening the eyes**.
- **Luke 24:45** – Then **opened he their understanding ...they might understand the scriptures**.
- **Acts 16:14** – ... Lydia... heard us: whose **HEART the Lord had opened**...
- **Hebrews 6:19** – Which **hope we have as an anchor of the soul**, both sure and steadfast...

"... that ye may know what is the hope of his calling..."

*We have been called by God to become sons and daughters! We are the bride of Christ and His church!
We have an eternal purpose! We are secure in Him! And we have a glorious future ahead of us!*

What a **HELPFUL** reality! We have **future hope in Christ**.

B. To Know the Riches of the Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints

2. God wants you to know how **VALUABLE** you are to Jesus Christ!

- **Ephesians 1:18** – *The EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING being enlightened; THAT YE MAY KNOW... what the riches of the glory of HIS inheritance in the saints,*

1 John 3:1-3

Behold, *what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...*

"The riches of the glory" – the immeasurable value; destined to display His glory!

"His inheritance" – joint heirs: **Rom 8:17**; the Father's inheritance: **Ps 28:9**; **94:14**; **Isa 19:25**

"In the saints" – the saints are His purchased and treasured possession! **Ecclesiastes 2:8**

Comparing Scriptures

- **Psalms 2:8** – *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance...*
- **Titus 2:14** – *Who gave himself for us... he might... purify unto himself a peculiar people...*
- **1 Peter 2:9** – *But ye are... a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him...*

Key Truth

- Christ has placed immeasurable value on His redeemed people as His purchased and treasured possession, destined to display His glory in His eternal kingdom!

❖ What a **HUMBLING** reality! We have **present value** in Christ.

C. To Know the Exceeding Greatness of His Power to Us-ward Who Believe

3. God wants you to know that He has great **POWER** available to help you today.

- **Ephesians 1:18** – *The EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING being enlightened; THAT YE MAY KNOW... what is the exceeding greatness of his power TO US-WARD...*

"The exceeding greatness of his power" – ordinary words fall short; He is all-powerful!

"Which he wrought in Christ... raised him from the dead" – this is resurrection power!

"Far above all" – Christ is not waiting to reign; He reigns now; He is supreme over all!

"And hath put all things under his feet" – all things are under His feet – His footstool!

"Gave him to be the head... his body, the fulness..." – He is the head; we are His body!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Psalms 110:1** – *The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make...*
- **Mark 16:19** – *... after the Lord had spoken... into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*
- **Acts 2:34** – *... David... saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand*
- **Hebrews 1:3** – *... sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Hebrews 12:2 ...is set*

Key Truth

- God has exalted Jesus Christ as supreme ruler over every power and authority, and given that reigning authority for the benefit, guidance and security of His church.

❖ What an **ENCOURAGING** reality! We have **present power** in Christ.

"... and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body..."

History is not a series of random events, but a divinely orchestrated plan. Christ is the Head and Focal Point of all existence! He is Lord over all creation! Any philosophy, nation, or institution that does not recognize that Headship is fundamentally at odds with the trajectory of history! All human institutions are accountable to Him. There is no such thing as secular ground!

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead DWELL IN YOU...

FAR ABOVE ALL

*Demonic powers
Darkness
Governments
Future powers
Future events
Cultural confusion*

Ephesians 1:10

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even IN HIM.