

In The Waiting #3 – Realize Rely See
Ephesians 1:12-23, (3:10,13-14, 16-21)

Intro: Almost every single person could finish- “I can’t wait until...”

We can’t wait...

For things to get better.

To wake up and “this” to be over.

For a pandemic to end.

For a time of national and international instability to pass.

For a bitter political season to be over.

For things to get back to... normal...

And yet, we wait. We don’t know what the future holds but we do know who holds the future.

But, in the waiting, God is working.

We don’t have to wait for things to get better for us to live better. What we do now, in this moment, might just change the future- ours, and even our world.

God has given us some specific directions while we wait!

In The Waiting...

Week #1. Remember – Deuteronomy 6/8

Not just knowledge. Bring it to mind, to the forefront and act on it!

Week #2. Rejoice. Philippians 4:1-7,13

Today: Week #3 in our series.

We began 2020 with a series- **“2020 Vision”** – God helping us to see clearly into an unknown, uncharted future year.

As we look back there has probably been no more appropriate, timely and needed series.

Today sort of picks up that idea of *seeing clearly in cloudy times*.

We each want certainty, don’t we?

We want to know *what is happening* and *going to happen in the world*.

Yet, that is **one of things that God tells us is not ours to know** – *“Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth”* (James) There is much that we can’t know. Can’t see.

To GROW requires us to let go of what we can’t KNOW.

But,

At the same time ***He helps us to see what we must know as we let go of what we can't know.***

Our text and lesson today do exactly that.

Ephesians 1:12-23

I. What was not addressed but was real and pressing.

i.e. - What they couldn't control.

- 3:13-14 – Paul in prison. Going to die. Life is brutal, unfair and uncertain
- Rome and life.
- 6:11+ - How to fight this warfare! We may not know what tomorrow will bring but we know how God says to stand and fight!
 - stand against the wiles of the devil
 - we wrestle against- principalities- big picture. Bigger than Rome!
 - “the fiery darts of the wicked”

Armour and methods!

II. What was critical in crazy times.

Theme – Not as personal, Not to help them understand... Cope...

More. Bigger- **1:18 - “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened”**

“Understanding” - “mind, imagination, understanding, “way of thinking”

“Enlightened” – “photizo” - turn the light on, give light, make to see, bring to light. i.e. to see with the light on!

Living in the dark –

Any of you feel that way? Mushrooms...

As we fight the dark, God speaks and turns the light on. He shines His light on the things we must know

In the Waiting, there are some things we must see, must realize as we let go of having to know what we can't know.

III. What we must realize! “see”

What is so important In The Waiting?!!

A. vs. 12-13 – There must be a **personal relationship** with God through Jesus of which we must be sure!

If there is **only ONE THING WE KNOW WE MUST KNOW WE KNOW HIM!**

“who first trusted Christ”

Series-

“WHO NEEDS GOD?”

I do.

Often people reject a “god” who doesn’t exist. Their minds...
WHO DESERVES GOD?

Yet- “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in...”

What “God” would give His Life? Give His Son? For – US?!

How – vs. 12-13 – Hear. Believe/trust. Saved and Sealed.

- When?
- Where?
- Why not now?!

B. Vs. 12- There is **a divine purpose** we must acknowledge.

“be to the praise of His glory”

You are special and God is doing something special in and through you!!!!

How does that solve anything?

It solves everything!

C. vs. 13-14 – There is a **security you can rest in.**

(The prayer)

D. vs. 17 – “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Father of GLORY ***may give you***” - ***“spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him”***

NIV – ***“so that you may know him better.”***

Nice words?

Paul to Philippi- ***“That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection”***

Let go of what you can't know.

Let the unknowns and uncertainties drive you to the One you know so that you can know Him better. More.

Everything else is secondary. He affects us. Our world. Us in the world. EVERYTHING! **Why so important?**

When we learn to live in the presence of Jesus we will be freed from the clutches of the unknown.

More!!!

E. vs. 18- – “that you may know”

Not the common- “ginosko”- to learn by experience.

This “know” – “eido” –

“To know beyond experience. To see. To perceive. To realize”

Know deeper than experience and what we can figure out.

Know in the depth of your heart from knowing Jesus!

“the hope of his calling”

“Hope”- Live in Expectation. Trust Him. Expect something!

You are here for a purpose and God is accomplishing it in you in spite of the world... maybe even with the help of the world – around us!

“the riches of the glory of his inheritance”

Heaven? Yes. But not here and now.

Inheritance – Someone dies and leaves something to someone

“the riches of the glory” – NOW!

“the exceeding greatness of His power to us “who believe” –

“Who believe”

Not “have believed” i.e. “saved”

Present participle- “are believing”

“Surpassing exceeding greatness of His power!
“power” - “dunamis”
“working” – “energeia” – energizing!
“mighty” – “kratos” – “Dominion. Force. Manifested power”
“power” – “strength, might, force”
Resurrection Power!

What God did with Jesus FOR US
He is now doing with Jesus IN US!

In the waiting, God is working.

We don't have to wait for things to get better for us to live better. What we learn might not only change us but the world.

We are where we are today because of “yesterday”. What we do today will reach forward and impact our tomorrows.

In the waiting, God leads us to let go of what we can't know and Realize What We Must Know.

He turns the light on-

- 1. Personal relationship**
- 2. Purpose**
- 3. Protection – We are eternally secure**
- 4. Personal knowledge of – “Presence” of Jesus**
- 5. From Jesus things we will “KNOW” –**
 - “the hope of his calling”**
 - “the riches of the glory of his inheritance”**
 - “His resurrection power!”**