

Eph 1:15-23

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Paul modeled for us what it is to love the brethren and to pray for them.

James 5 tells us that the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

2 Cor 5:21 tells us that God made Jesus to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

There is power in prayer!

Paul spoke of knowledge, not just having information of who God is, but it's having an experience with God. The Lord wants to transform our heart.

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Paul's continued prayer:

18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened (the eyes of your heart); that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Three times in verses 18 & 19 Paul uses the word "what."

First - what is the hope of our calling.

- Paul is reaching to eternity past to our calling.
- Then to our eternal future and hope.

We, the believers are the church, the Ecclesia, the called-out assembly.

Called from our life of sin.

But what have we been called out to?

- fellowship,

2

- to evangelism
- soon we'll be called to heaven.

One day we'll hear the trumpet sound and we'll be taken out.

- 1 Pet 1:3 - called to a living hope.

Hope isn't something we hope as in,

- "I hope I win the prize, or I hope I can visit you tomorrow.

Hope carries the idea of

- "assurance for the future."
- Titus 2:13 calls it a blessed hope

Hope is having assurance

- in Jesus for the future.

The hope in Ephesus (now I'm referring to the secular side of Ephesus) was in their riches, their statue of Diana.

Today, what remains of Ephesus is nothing more than an archeologist's paradise.

However, the believers that were there live on in Christ.

The second "what" in verse 18 is this: what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints?

Heaven will be amazing and we will see Jesus for who He is.

I believe Paul is saying something else here as well.

Have you ever thought to yourself

- that YOU ARE CHRIST'S PRIZED POSSESSION?

Verses 5 & 6 say that we were adopted according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace.

2 Thes 1:10 & Col 3:4 say that one day Christ will be glorified in us His saints and we will be glorified in Him.

Titus 2:12-14

13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Finally, the third "what" verse 19 - what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He

worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

Jesus is over everything.

- Don't stress over things you can't control

Jesus is seated at God's right hand in heavenly places.

Paul says He's FAR above all.

- And he says, not only in this age,
- but also in the one to come!

The last section of the chapter starting in verse 15 is proof of God's power.

He mentions God's exceeding greatness,

- His power, might and mighty power,
- His might and dominion.

When I think of God's power I think of His greatness and His power to create.

Since we're still in our earthly body

- we need God's power to help us thru this life.

He empowers us.

Just before WWII the small town of Itasca, Texas, a school fire took the lives of 263 children. When the war ended, the town began to expand and eventually built a brand new school, which featured the finest sprinkler system in the world. Civic pride ran high. Honor students were selected to guide visitors on tours of the new facilities, pointing out the most advanced sprinkler system ever developed. Never again would Itasca experience another tragedy. Well, the town continued to grow, and seven years later, it was necessary to put an addition on the school. When they added the new wing, they discovered that the sprinkler system had never been connected! What a tragedy it is when we fail to hook up to the power of God available to us.

Eph 5:18 - be filled with the Spirit. He's our source of power.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Eph 2:1-10

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we

all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

It's nice having a GPS when you travel.

- There was a day when that was not available.

Prov 14:12

12 There is a way that seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

The enemy brings death, he came to kill, steal and to destroy!

Eph 2:1-10

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins

This is the person

- who has deviated from the right or correct path
- and toward the path of destruction

To be dead in trespass and sin is to miss the mark.

A description of the wickedness of the Gentiles, Romans 1.

- There God gave them over to a debased mind.

Paul is addressing the Gentiles here in verse 1.

Then he addresses the Jews in verse 3.

We were born DOA.

- We were spiritually dead.

Solomon said:

Prov 22:15

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

5

David says, “Surely I was sinful at birth, / sinful from the time my mother conceived me” (Psalm 51:5).

“Even from birth the wicked go astray; / from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies” (Psalm 58:3).

Being spiritually dead means being disobedient to the Lord.

Do you all realize that about 1/4 of the population claim to be Christian.

- I'd say of the ¼ maybe half are actually Christian
- which leaves about 1/8 of the population
- that are actually Christian.

We were once part of that population.

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

When I was living to satisfy the desires of the flesh,

- I was willing and ready to do the things that pleased the flesh.

Thank God for His conviction.

- That's His way of showing us
- His kindness and His goodness.

Next in verse 3 Paul addresses the Jewish community. Who was Paul? A Jewish believer.

3 among whom also we all (Paul was a Jew and an apostle to the Gentiles) once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh (Paul is speaking of man's fallen nature), fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others (again, referring to the Gentiles).

Paul is essentially saying, we the Jews were influenced by the Gentile community.

The bottom line is that both Gentiles and Jews were and are, in need of a Savior.

We should be able to say that we sin less today,

- but we are not sinless. We still sin.

Then Paul says, “But God!”

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (Jew and Gentile)

The world does not understand the riches and mercies of God.

5

It's because of God's mercies we do not get what we deserve.

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Paul was speaking as though this was already taking place.

- This speaks of our position in Christ.
- We are to set our mind
- on the things which are above.

The question then becomes, why would God choose to save me!

Paul answers the question in verse 7.

7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (He gives us what we do not deserve - Grace!)

We are all equal in God's sight, we are all in need of a Savior.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Our salvation comes only by way of God's grace.

There is nothing that any of us can do to earn salvation.

Simon the Sorcerer tried to purchase the Holy Spirit power.

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

We can't earn our way to heaven. Christianity teaches that God reached out to man!

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Paul is speaking in contrast to verse 2. There Paul said that the Ephesians and we once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air.

Paul now begins to speak of the work done in the lives of the Gentiles. To the Jews, they were uncircumcised Pagans.

God promised Abraham he's be a great nation and by faith he believed God, so God counted it unto him as righteousness.

Circumcision was a way of signifying that the Jews would be a spiritual people living in the Spirit and not of the flesh. This was to be an outward sign of an inward work.

The Jews were then to be an example to the Gentiles. Instead they became more like the Gentiles. They were becoming more worldly.

So Paul makes it clear to the Jews that you're not a Christian simply because you're circumcised physically.

Now Paul will look back at the past and points out 5 truths of where they were prior to being saved.

Eph 2:11-13

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh – who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands – **12** that at that time you were without Christ,

This is who the Gentiles were, without the Messiah, without Christ.

In fact, 1 Jn 5:12 says, He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

being aliens from the commonwealth (without citizenship) of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise,

The Gentiles had no place in the community of God's people. They were as strangers in a foreign land with no place to go.

In the OT God made several covenants with Jewish people. The Gentiles didn't have access to those covenants.

Today, if a person is a non-believer, he doesn't have access to God's promises except for the promise of a judgement.

Then Paul says the Gentiles were without hope.

They were without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood (speaks of His sacrifice for sin) of Christ.

In the OT people had to sacrifice an animal for the atonement of their sins. We no longer have to do that.