

Opening: God's mystery kept from the beginning is Jesus, that Mystery is unfolded to us who believe.

Key Scripture: Ephesians 1:12-21 12in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory. 13And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory. 15For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him. 18I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength, 20which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, 21far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

A. Vs 1:12 12in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, would be for the praise of His glory.

1. Placing our hope in Christ is not a vain thing. Those who placed their hope in Christ's coming were fulfilled. God has kept His word. To offer his Messiah to the world.
2. "We who were the first to hope" Paul is referencing the early Jewish believers (Apostles) who were first fruits to God of the full number of the Jewish remnant that would be saved and connected to the engrafted gentile believers. This was done for the praise of His glory.

B. Vs 1:13 13And in Him, having (also) heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

1. We must hear and believe the gospel the “word of truth” How can someone believe on what they have not hear. We must share the gospel.
2. This verse explains the connection that Paul is connecting the gentile believers in Ephesus to the Jewish remnant that was saved.
3. What happens when we believe the gospel? We are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. This is the sealing of salvation when the Holy Spirit comes into a believer and seals us. The word in the Greek is (esphragisthēte), meaning a seal of security, protection, preservation, a declaration of righteousness, to keep secret/hidden.
4. This seal is not the Baptism of the Holy Spirit where we are clothed with power from on high.

C. Vs 1:14 14who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of His glory.

1. The Holy Spirit is part of the “down payment or security” of all that God has promised. He is the first portion of all that God has secured of what is going to be released to those who believe.
2. Understand that the purchase price was the blood of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is released upon those who have been paid for in full. The Holy Spirit cannot be given to a person who has not been paid in full.
3. God gives us a taste of what is to come in the person of the Holy Spirit who abides with us while we are on this earth.
4. Every touch of Heaven, every beautiful presence of God, every healing, miracle and blessing of God flows through the Holy Spirit who is God living within us. We must acknowledge The Holy Spirit and become more sensitive to God living in us.

D. Vs 1:15-17 15For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17that the God of our

Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.

1. The Apostle Paul commends the Church in Ephesus for their strong faith and love for each other. As a genuine spiritual overseer for this church, He is thankful for them.
2. What was the church in Ephesus like? “About a decade after the church had been started, Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians commending their faith and love (A.D. 62). A careful reading of this epistle shows that they had done well. They appeared to be devout in their faith, well organized, and busy in the gospel. During these early years they had been growing, expanding, and doing the will of God. Jews and Gentiles, from several ethnicities and nationalities, had come together to form “one new man,” (2:15), “one body” (2:16). They were multiethnic as well as diverse in their socioeconomic make-up.” (Commentary courtesy of www.Kingsharbor.wordpress.com)
3. Overseers of God’s house should pray for the house God has set them over. This means the same consistency we pray over our children, ourselves should be given to the church we are leaders over.
4. Remember to give thanks. It can be easy to get negative and only see the things that need to be done or that are not going well. Look for the good in our church and give God praise for it.
5. What does He pray? What should we pray for? Paul prays that God would grant a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they would continue to grow in the knowledge of Him.

E. Vs 1:18 18I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints,

1. **Paul prays for revelation, because we cannot imagine or see the full measure of God’s calling unless it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Paul is saying that once we understand we will rejoice in what He has planned for those He has called.**

2. **“the riches of His (Jesus) glorious inheritance in the saints (Us)” The inheritance is the church, Paul says the church is “rich” meaning “valuable”**
3. We do not see with our eyes but with our hearts. Therefore, if our hearts are not opened it doesn't matter what is placed in front of our eyes. We will misunderstand unless God moves on our hearts. Our hearts must become like His to perceive the true riches of His plan.
4. Paul wants us to value the church just as Jesus does. Paul's love for the people of God stems from a heart that has fully grasped who and what we are.

F. Vs 1:19-21 19and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength, 20which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, 21far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

1. His power is directed towards the believers. What Power?
2. The same power God used to raise Christ from the dead is working in you. The same power that enabled God's word to come to pass down to the smallest detail is now working in your life.
3. This power is the Holy Spirit, it is the ability of God to completely overwhelm, undermine and decimate His adversaries so that He may favor and uphold His people by the power of(His word!!
4. This Power is also the same power that has exalted Christ above all things.
 - i. **All Rule (Chief)**
 - ii. **All Authority (Delegated influence)**
 - iii. **All Power Greek (dynameos) force or miraculous power**
 - iv.**All Dominion (masters or rulers)**

v. Every Name past, present and future (Fame, Character, reputation)

5. He is the undisputed, uncontested, forever ruling Lord over all things, none will ever be greater or higher than He is. Today, nothing can stand against Jesus Christ. No authority is greater than His, no earthly government of man or angel or demon is greater than Christ.
6. He is not equal with anyone, He is “greatly superior” because God the Father exalted the Son. To fully understand this you must walk in it and experience it. You must taste and see the power, glory and authority of Jesus Christ.
7. The Apostle Paul is saying that this power that raised Christ up is also going to raise you and I up and will also seat us. Since Christ has overcome, we now will overcome!
8. The born-again believer full of the Holy Spirit has more power in Christ than Satan or His demons have. Jesus holds the keys and don't ever forget it.

Closing: The Apostle Paul has shared the revelation of the power of Christ that the believer may rest and rejoice in the covenant they have. God is working, it's not all on your shoulders. Take courage and believe. This week, draw closer to God through the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and lead you, worship the Holy Spirit and pray in the Holy Spirit. The down payment of God is His precious Holy Spirit and He is yours through Jesus Christ.