

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 15 January 2023



EPHESIANS

Enlightened

Ephesians 1:15-23

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:15-23

OVERVIEW

After telling us all about the spiritual blessings we have received in Christ, Paul goes on to pray for the church in Ephesus.

He prays that God would give them the 'spirit of wisdom and revelation' who would enlighten the eyes of their hearts so that they would know 3 things:

1. Hope

Christian hope is not vague or thin, but is something to carry close to us in our every day. Our hope is secure because it's not based on our strength but on the character of God, who is powerful and will surely do what he intends to do with his creation and his people. We have to intentionally fight against being formed by the hopes and fears of the world around us, and ask God to help us to know and actively meditate on our hope.

2. God's glorious inheritance

God looks at his church and he considers it to be riches, a glorious inheritance. As we consider God's holiness and our sin, it makes us wonder how that can be. It is only because of our union with Christ that it can be so - because we are wrapped in the righteousness of Christ, because our hope is not in our performance but in Christ's, we can know that we are very precious in God's sight.

3. God's power

Paul tells us that God's power isn't something for us to try and find, but something for us to know

that is already at work towards us. This power is immeasurable, and Paul explains it's the power that raised Christ from the dead, seated him at the right hand of God the Father, placing him above all rulers, authorities and names, placing all things under his feet.

With this resurrection power available to us, we need never be defeatist in our lives. Weakness is in fact the way to experiencing this power, as Jesus' power is made perfect in weakness (2 Cor 12:9) - we can make progress in holiness, we can become more like Jesus when we realise our utter dependence on the power of God.

QUESTIONS

1. Paul prays that the church would know the hope they've been called to. In what ways do you know and understand this hope?
2. God considers us a glorious inheritance. Do you ever find that hard to believe? If so, why?
3. Share stories of how you have experienced God's power in your life.

Ask the group if there are any situations that they need to know the power of God in currently and pray for these situations.