15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might 20 that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet and gave Him, as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

## I. We Have Cause for Great Hope (15-17)

- A. We already possess the most important thing (15) "...I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints." We are connected to Christ the Head and the Church, the body. We are not alone!
- B. We have spiritual resources for strengthening our hope (16) "I do not cease to give <u>thanks</u> for you, remembering you in my <u>prayers</u>..."
- C. God is offering us an opportunity to become more than we have been (17) "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him..."

## II. We Have Need for Fuller Revelation (18-21)

A. We can only anchor our hope in what we believe to be true (18) – "...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints..."

## THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE ROAD, IT IS A BEND IN THE ROAD

- B. God wants us to believe that He will use His power on our behalf (19) "...<u>and what</u> is <u>the immeasurable</u> <u>greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might..."</u>
- C. We must elevate our evaluation of the power of God in us and for us (20) "...that <u>He worked in Christ when</u> He raised Him from the dead and seated Him, at His right hand in the heavenly places..."
- D. We need revelation to maintain an eternal perspective (21) "...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come."

For nonbelievers: what is your answer to the reality that death finds us all?

## III. We Choose to Rest in Jesus' Loving Leadership (22-23)

A. The Father has entrusted all things to the Son (22a) – "And He put all things under His feet..."

Nothing happens apart from Jesus' sovereign wisdom and plan for the ages. He IS IN FULL CONTROL!

B. Jesus is responsible for caring for the Christian – "....and gave Him as head over all things to the church..."

Jesus has been loving and leading His Bride for 2,00 years. He will not abandon her.

There will be a full and final rescue. We are to trust, abide in Him, follow His leadership and trust Him.

C. We, the Bride, are inseparable from Him (23) "...which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

There is no conception of eternity without us being safely and everlastingly by His side. We are safe.