

PART TWO HANDOUT EPHESIANS 1:15-23 **"PAULS PRAYER FOR US"**

The Apostle Paul Wants Us to Understand that We Were Born Rich when We Trusted Christ. But this is Not Enough...You See...We Must Grow in Our Understanding of Our Riches If We are Ever Going to Use Them to Live Victoriously and to Glorify God. EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Apostle Paul intercedes in a powerful prayer for Believers to have their "Eyes of the Heart" enlightened, so they may understand...The Hope of Their Calling...The Riches of God's Glorious Inheritance...And the Immeasurable Greatness of God's Power that Raised Jesus from the Dead.

- *The Christian Life has 2 Dimensions: Faith Toward God, and Love Toward Man, and You Cannot Separate the Two.* In each of Paul's Prison Prayers in Eph Chapters 1 & 3; Phil and Col Chapter 1, We Discover the Blessings he Wanted his Converts to Enjoy.
- Paul Prays that God will Reveal to them, and us, what we already have in Christ!

Two Facts as we study Paul's 4 Requests in this Prayer for Enlightenment. **First** Enlightenment Comes from God the Holy Spirit. John 16 *The Holy Spirit Will Guide Us in to All Truth and Wisdom.* The Holy Spirit Reveals Truth to Us from God's Word and Then Gives Us the Wisdom to Understand and Apply it.

- **Second**, this Enlightenment Comes to the Heart of the Believer. VS 18, Literally reads *"The Eyes of Your Heart Being Enlightened"*.
- **Point:** The Inability to See and Understand Spiritual Things is Not the Fault of One's Intelligence, But of the Heart! *The Eyes of the Heart Must be Opened by God's Spirit!*

Paul prays that the Believer's Eyes may be Opened to See 4 Spiritual Realities.

1. **Vs 17 That They Might Know God.** The Atheist Claims there is No God for Us to Know. The Agnostic States that if There is a God, We Cannot Know Him.

- Rom 1:18 says, This willful Ignorance of God led Mankind into Corruption & Condemnation.

Paul Describes the Stages in Man's Devolution: from Willful Ignorance of God to Idolatry...Substituting a Lie for the Truth, to Immorality and Indecency. This Depraved Attitude Begins With An Unwillingness to Know God As Creator, Sustainer, Governor, Savior, and Judge.

It is Not Enough to Know God Only As Savior...We Must get to Know Him as Father, Friend and Guide.

- KEY: The Better We Know Him, the More Satisfying Our Spiritual Lives Will Be.

2. Vs 18: That We Might Know God's Calling. The word "Called" is an important word in the Christian Vocabulary. The word Church is a Combination of 2 Greek Words that mean. "Called Out."

- 1 Peter 2:9 says, We have been Called Out of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light.
- 2 Peter 2:3 says, And We have been Called to Glory
- Some callings offer No Hope But Our Calling In Christ Assures Us of Eternity with Him
- The Believer's Hope is, the Return of Jesus Christ for His Church. 1 Thess 4:13-18 & 1 John 3:1-3.
- The Hope of Our Calling Should Be a Dynamic Force in Our Lives, Encouraging Us to be Pure. Obedient and Faithful...So That Others Will See Christ! **The Fact that We Shall One Day See Christ and Be Like Him Should Motivate Us to Live Like Christ Every Day!**

3. VS 18 Does Not refer to our Inheritance in Christ...*But His Inheritance In Us.* This is an Amazing Truth that God should look upon Us as a part of His great Wealth!

- When Jesus Christ Returns, We shall be, "To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace."

God Deals with Us on the Basis of Our Future, Not Our Past! **We Need to Remember that we Christians Live in the Future Tense...With Lives Controlled by what we SHALL BE When Christ Returns.**

- This Should Lead the Believer into a Life of Dedication and Devotion to the Lord.

4. **Vs 19-23. That We Might Know God's Power.** By making Us His Inheritance, God has shown His love. By Promising Us, a Wonderful Future, He has Encouraged our Hope.

Verse 19 can be Translated, "What is the surprising greatness of His power (Divine Dynamic...Eternal Energy) toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength."

Question: *What Good is it to have these Spiritual Riches if We are Spiritually To Weak or To Afraid to Use Them To Accomplish God's Plan in Our Lives?* Matt 26 The Spirit Indeed is Willing, But the Flesh is Weak.

- In Our Own Strength We Cannot Appropriate God's Power in Our Lives!
- *We Need to PLUG IN to the Only Power Source that Can Empower US.*

Key: God's Power Enables Us to Use God's Wealth! We could Never Defeat Spiritual Foes in Our Own Power, But We Can Through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

*POINT: Paul wants Us to Know the Greatness of God's Power So that We Will Not Fail to Use Our Wealth, and So that the Enemy will Not Deprive Us of Our Wealth. **VS 20-23***

- God's Power that was Demonstrated in Creation...Through Many Miracles and Seen in Christ Resurrection from the Dead is Daily Available to US! No Authority or Power, Human or in the Spirit World, is Greater than that of Jesus Christ, the Exalted son of God. **He is far Above All**, and No Future Enemy can Overcome Him, Because He has been Exalted far Above All Powers.

This Means You Have the Same Power that Raised Christ from the Dead, Residing in You Since the Day You Received Christ as Savior and Lord! ***There is a Living Connection Between You and Christ.***

- Physically speaking, the Head Controls the body and keeps the body functioning properly. Injure parts of the Brain and you Handicap or Paralyze corresponding Parts of the Body.
- **Christ is Our Spiritual Head.** Through the Spirit, We are United to Him as the members of His body. *This Means that We Share His Resurrection, Ascension, and Exaltation.*

Paul wants Us to Know the Exceeding Greatness of His Power to Us! *Apart from This Power, We Cannot Draw Upon Our Great Wealth in Christ.*

- The Spirit's Power, through the Resurrected, Ascended Christ, is available to all Christians by Faith!

In the 4 Gospels, we see God's Power at work in the Ministry of Jesus Christ, But in the book of Acts, We See the Same Power at Work In Ordinary Men and Women.

- What a Transformation took place in Peter's life Between the End of the Gospels and the Beginning of Acts at the Day of Pentecost.
- Since that Day, When the Holy Spirit Empowered the Church We Have Seen God's Power in Ordinary Men and Women to Accomplish Great Things for the Kingdom.
- The Greatest Power Shortage Today is NOT in Our Generators...It is in Our Personal Lives.

Question for Each of Us: Will Paul's Prayer be Answered in My Life? Today Will I Begin to Know by Experience God's Calling, God's Riches and God's Power in MY Life!

Paul's Prayer Encourages Every Believer...US...to Move Beyond Simply Knowing about God to Experiencing His Supernatural Power Each Day of Our Lives.

Paul's Prayer Exhorts Us to Pray for Each Other to have Spiritual Understanding and Grow in Our Faith.

Paul's Prayer Reminds Each of Us that WE have Access to God's Supernatural Power, and that It Is NOT Based On Our Own Efforts. \

Paul Reminds Us that We have an Inheritance in Christ and We Must Step Out in Faith and Lay Hold of Each Promise and Spiritual Blessing God has made available to Us.

“LIFE” POINT: The Better We Know and Experience God Power, the More Satisfying and Victorious Our Spiritual Lives Will Be.