

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"Eye-Opening Prayer"
Ephesians 1:15-23
Study-5

Everything you and I need is already in our spiritual account in the Heavens! Don't need to go and look elsewhere! Ephesians 1:3

Note Paul's "Eye-Opening Prayer" – Ephesians 1:18 – "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know"

The Thought Of The Passage: "With Our Spiritual Blessings, We Need God To Enlighten Our Eyes To His Calling, Riches And His Power."

- 1. Verses 15-17 – To Know Him**
- 2. Verse 18 – To Know His Calling**
- 3. Verse 18 – To Know His Riches**
- 4. Verses 19-23 – To Know His Power**

1. Verses 15-17 – To Know Him:

Ephesians 1:15 – "For this reason," – or "Therefore" – When we see the "Therefore" we should ask ourselves the question "what is the 'therefore' there for?"

Paul sums up the Christian walk in just 2 words:

- 1. Faith** – "having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you," – They placed their faith in Jesus Christ. These believers lived a life of faith!

Romans 5:1

"in the Lord Jesus," – "Jesus becomes Savior when He is accepted as Lord!"

- 2. Love** – "and your love for all the saints," – This is the acid test for a Christian.

1 John 3:14; 1 John 5:1

Romans 5:5

Revelation 2:2-4

Ephesians 1:16 – Praise and prayer are essential to balance in the Christian faith.

Praise – “do not cease giving thanks for you,” – Paul gave praise in the first half of the chapter, verses 3-14 in verses 6, 12, 14.

The Church exists for the glory of God, to give praise to Him!

Prayer – “while making mention of you in my prayers;” –
1 Thessalonians 5:17 – “pray without ceasing;”

If we are lacking the power, joy, and the love, we are probably lacking the prayer.

Study in the prayers of Paul reveals 2 basic areas:

1. Paul Prays For Spiritual Perception.

2. Paul Prays For Growth In Character.

James 1:5

Ephesians 1:17 – This is not saying that Jesus is not God but is a reference to His humanity.

“spirit” – attitude; Matthew 5:3 – “Blessed are the poor of spirit.” – Person that is broken in humility, teachable.

“wisdom – “supreme intelligence,” such as belongs to God.

“Knowledge is the ability to take things apart, while wisdom is the ability to put them together.” Wisdom is the right use of knowledge.

“revelation” – “to reveal, to unveil, to enlighten.”

“in the knowledge of Him.” – It is the solution to this world that is falling apart.

“knowledge” – “is a knowledge of experience; it speaks of an intimate relationship with God.”

We can know Him by two ways:

- 1. By the Living Word** – in the Gospels, Jesus lived out the message that He was God in the flesh.

2. The Bible is the Written Word foretelling about Him and His coming.

2 Peter 1:3

Colossians 2:10

2. Verse 18 – To Know His Calling:

Ephesians 1:18 – “eyes of your Heart” – speaks of the inner life, the inward self, the eye; metaphor for the eyes of the mind, the faculty of knowing.

“enlightened” – “to bring to light.”

“Hope” is the sure expectation of a future event; it is an assurance.

“hope of His calling” – Ephesians 1:4-5.

There are many things that the Father had in mind when He called us:

- 1) Called us to belong to Jesus.
- 2) Called to have fellowship with Him.
- 3) Called to freedom.
- 4) Called to be holy.
- 5) Called to be forbearing.
- 6) Called to fellowship of suffering.

3. Verse 18 – To Know His Riches:

Ephesians 1:18 – “inheritance” – we are to receive an inheritance in Christ, but also speaks of us as being an inheritance to Jesus Christ, Ephesians 1:11, 14.

“in the saints” – The inheritance is for saints only.

2 Thessalonians 1:10

Matthew 13:45-46

4. Verses 19-23 – To Know His Power:

Ephesians 1:19 – “surpassing” – exceeding; to surpass in throwing, to throw over or beyond any thing, to transcend, surpass, excel.

“power” – (Dynamic) “raw power, power with effect, it is from the word we get “dynamite.”

“toward us who believe.” – He is trying to put into words what is available to those who are in Christ.

Paul gives 3 truths about Jesus Christ that demonstrate His great power!:

- 1. Resurrection From The Dead:** Ephesians 1:20 – The cross of Christ was the greatest act of love, the resurrection of Christ was the greatest act of power.

Genesis 3:19 – “For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”

- 2. Ascension Of Christ:** Ephesians 1:20, Psalm 110; The Ascension – means Jesus Christ accomplished the Father’s will.

Ephesians 1:21-22

We as Christians are constantly in a battle with the world, flesh, and the Devil.

- 3. Jesus Declared Head Over All Things:** Ephesians 1:22-23.

Psalm 8:6; Hebrews 2:8

“Church” – First time it is used in Ephesians. Church – “those who have been called out, called out ones.”

“the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” – The Church is full because Jesus is there and is the head, with the direction, causing it to function.

Colossians 1:19; Colossians 2:9

Application:

1. We Need To Pray For Enlightenment, And Seek That The Holy Spirit Would Give To Us Insight. Human Thought And Illumination Belong Together.
2. All Our Thinking Is Unproductive Without The Spirit Of Truth, But Illumination Is Not Given So That We Would Not Have To Use Our Minds.
3. Faith And Reason Are Not Incompatible. Knowledge Is The Ladder By Which Faith Climbs Higher. Faith Cannot Grow Without A Firm Basis Of Knowledge. Knowledge Is Sterile If It Does Not Bring Forth Faith. As We Learn, Our Faith Grows.