

Read The Bank Book (Part 2) – Ephesians 1:15-23

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Introduction

1. In our last lesson we discovered the importance of understanding the role enlightenment and wisdom plays in the Christian life. Our enlightenment comes from the Holy Spirit via the Word of God. He wants us to know what riches we have in Christ and in this prayer, Paul mentions four of them...

I. That They Might Know God (1:17b)

- a. Knowing God Personally
 - i. Paul prays for us to have a fuller knowledge of God. A knowledge beyond facts, a personal knowledge that leads to a relationship that of a “Father” and “child.”
 - ii. Nothing is more important in life than knowing God through Jesus Christ. Willful ignorance has led mankind into sin and condemnation.
 1. Romans 1:18ff – Paul describes this devolution: from willful ignorance of God to idolatry (substituting a lie for the truth) to immorality and indecency. They refused to know God as Creator, Sustainer of life, Savior, Lord, and Judge.
 - iii. To know God is salvation (John 17:3). To know Him increasingly is sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Romans 6:22-23; Philippians 3:10). To know Him perfectly is glorification (2 Thessalonians 2:12-15).

II. That We Might Know The Hope Of God’s Calling (1:18a)

- a. Our Heavenly Hope
 - i. We have been called to a wondrous hope in Christ (Ephesians 4:4). The church is the “called out.” We have been called “out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9). It is a glorious call (1 Peter 5:10) that assures us a wonderful future with God in heaven.
 - ii. Remember hope in the bible is “assurance (a guarantee) for the future!” Our hope is found in the return of Jesus for His church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:1-3; Romans 8:22-25; 1 John 3:1-3). We have a living hope that encourages us day by day (1 Peter 1:3-5)!
 - iii. The glory of heaven is in the presence of God (Revelation 21:1-5; Colossians 3:4). Man was created for God and heaven. It is our great and precious hope!
 - iv. The hope that belongs to our calling should be a dynamic force in our lives, encouraging us to be pure (1 John 2:28–3:3), obedient (Heb. 13:17), and faithful (Luke 12:42–48).