

Read The Bank Book Part 3 – Ephesians 1:15-23

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Introduction

1. Last week we discussed two of Paul's prayer requests for the Ephesians. Paul prays that we might know God and have a fuller knowledge that leads to a closer relationship with Him. Knowing God is our eternal life (John 17:3).
2. Second, Paul prayed that we might know the hope of God's calling that we have in Christ. We need to know about our assurance of our resurrection and heavenly home with the Lord. This hope is a powerful dynamic in our lives that leads to obedience and purity (1 John 2:28-3:3). Today we finish the final two prayer requests of Paul.

I. That We Might Know God's Riches (1:18b)

- a. Christ's Inheritance In Us
 - i. Just as a man's wealth brings glory to his name, so God will get glory from the church because of what He has invested in us. When Jesus Christ returns, we shall be "to the praise of the glory of His grace" (Eph. 1:6).
 - ii. God deals with us in the basis of our future, not our past (Judges 6:12; John 1:42). Because we are God's inheritance, we live only to please and glorify Him (2 Thessalonians 1:9-10).
- b. Christ Will Be Glorified In His Saints (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)
 - i. The glory of Christ is in those who through him have learned to endure and to conquer, and so to shine like lights in a dark place. We can either bring dishonor or glory to Jesus (Revelation 5:12-13).
- c. And We Will Be Glorified in Christ (Colossians 3:4)
 - i. The day is coming when Christ will return in glory—and then the Christians, whom no one recognized, will share that glory, and it will be plain for all to see.
 - ii. Knowing this should lead us into a life of dedication and devotion to the Lord.

II. That We Might Know God's Power (1:19-23)

- a. The Magnitude Of God's Great Power Available To Us
 - i. So tremendous is this truth that Paul enlisted many different words from the Greek vocabulary to get his point across:
 1. dunamis—"power" as in dynamo and dynamite - this is a spiritually dynamic and living force. It is the power of God directed toward us His church.
 2. energeia—"working" as in energy (seen in Christ being raised from the dead).
 3. kratos—"mighty" Power that overcomes resistance; like in the miracles of Jesus.
 4. ischus—"power." Strength which God provides.
 - ii. We Christians need power for several reasons. To begin with, by nature we are too weak to appreciate and appropriate this wealth, and to use it as it should be used (Matthew 26:41).
 - iii. But there is a second reason why we need God's power. There are enemies who want to rob us of our wealth (Eph. 1:21; 6:11-12).

The power of the Holy Spirit, through the resurrected, ascended Christ, is available to all Christians—by faith. His power is to "us-ward who believe" (Eph. 1:19). It is grace that supplies the wealth, but it is faith that lays hold of the wealth. We are saved "by grace, through faith" (Eph. 2:8-9), and we live "by grace," through faith (1 Cor. 15:10).