

Ephesians: Our Immeasurable Riches In Christ

Sunday, July 23, 2017

Ephesians 1:15-23

I. Paul's Prayer for Us

"For this reason" – refers back to the beginning, but certainly verses 13,14!

But now Paul expresses gratitude because he "has heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints."

"...may give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him..."

"give" – human genius does not account for God, but knowledge of God is a gift from God. Human wisdom or will power does not reveal God to us. It is His Spirit.

"Spirit" – this is the Holy Spirit - he is the agent of revelation (John 15:26) and illumination (1 John. 2:27).

II. Three Things Paul Wants Us to Know

1. "Hope to which he has called you"

Romans 8:30 – "And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."

"God's calling finds its origin in the choice of his people in Christ before the foundation of the world (v.4) and it becomes effective in their lives...through the preaching of the gospel. Paul prays that his readers might grasp more fully the hope into which God has brought them by his call, that hope which is held out in the gospel." PT O'Brien

2. "Riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints"

"Paul would thus be praying that we might be enabled to understand the glory and honor and wonder of that privileged status, to understand and reflect upon the spiritual wealth of what it means to belong to God, to be his people. God wants us to fully understand and grasp and experience what we are to him!" S. Storms

3. "Immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe"

A. Great power when he raised Jesus from the dead

B. Great power when he seated him at his right hand

C. Great power when he made Him the head over all things to the church

"The church now embodies, expresses, and mediates that glorious presence to the world." Sam Storms