

Our Calling: Week 3

Ephesians 1:15-21

February 26, 2023

Review last two weeks:

Election, predestination, God's gifts and blessings.

Last week – Our inheritance is in the Lord, the Holy Spirit and what's to come.

We were reminded that all of this is “to the praise of His glory.”

This week: Prayer for wisdom and the gifts we have in the Lord.

We discovered that we were “born rich” when we trusted Christ. But this is not enough, for we must grow in our understanding of our riches if we are ever going to use them to the glory of God. Too many Christians have never “read the bank book” to find out the vast spiritual wealth that God has put to their account through Jesus Christ. They are like the late newspaper publisher, William Randolph Hearst, who invested a fortune collecting art treasures from around the world. One day Mr. Hearst found a description of some valuable items that he felt he must own, so he sent his agent abroad to find them. After months of searching, the agent reported that he had finally found the treasures. They were in Mr. Hearst's warehouse. Hearst had been searching frantically for treasures he already owned! Had he read the catalog of his treasures, he would have saved himself a great deal of money and trouble.¹

Paul wanted His readers to understand what great wealth they had in Christ. Not in material things, but in spiritual. Notice Paul does not ask to give them what they do not have, but rather prays that God will reveal to them what they already have.

Prayer: Giving thanks and interceding.

Spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Greek word “Sophia” – skill, insight, intelligence. I have heard it defined as “skill in Godly living.”

Solomon asked for wisdom in 2 Chronicles 1.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

James 1:5-6

Revelation – “unveiling”

Knowledge of Him – To know God personally is salvation (John 17:3), to know Him increasingly is sanctification (Phil. 3:10), and to know Him perfectly is glorification (1 Cor. 13:9-12).

Salvation begins it, sanctification is the here and now and glorification will continue it.

Eyes of your understanding (heart) be enlightened.

This comes from the Holy Spirit to the believer.

You may know the hope of His calling.

Church –Ekklesia- Called – “Called Out”

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9

The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

¹ Warren Wiersbe

This phrase does not refer to our inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:11), but His inheritance in us. This is an amazing truth—that God should look on us as a part of His great wealth! 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). God deals with us on the basis of our future, not our past. He said to cowardly Gideon, “The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor” (Judg. 6:12). Jesus said to Andrew’s brother, “Thou art Simon ... thou shalt be called Cephas [a stone]” (John 1:42). Gideon did become a mighty man of valor, and Simon did become Peter, a rock. We Christians live in the future tense, our lives controlled by what we shall be when Christ returns. Because we are God’s inheritance, we live to please and glorify Him.²

The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Paul offered something to challenge our faith: “the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe” (Eph. 1:19). So tremendous is this truth that Paul enlisted many different words from the Greek vocabulary to get his point across: *dunamis*—“power” as in dynamo and dynamite; *energeia*—“working” as in energy; *kratos*—“mighty”; *ischnus*—“power.” Ephesians 1:19 can be translated, “What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength.” He is talking about divine dynamic, eternal energy, available to us!³

Which He works in Christ (vs. 20-21)

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. “The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:41). To turn this vast spiritual wealth over to a mere human being, living by human wisdom and strength, would be like handing an atomic bomb to a two-year-old. God’s power enables us to use God’s wealth. 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). We could never defeat these spiritual foes in our own power, but we can through the Spirit’s power. 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. The power is seen in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, people measured God’s power by His creation (Isa. 40:12–27) or by His miracle at the Exodus of Israel from Egypt (Jer. 16:14). But today, we measure God’s power by the miracle of Christ’s resurrection. Much more was involved than merely raising Him from the dead, for Christ also ascended to heaven and sat down in the place of authority at the right hand of God. He is not only Saviour; He is also Sovereign (Acts 2:25–36). 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.⁴

All for His glory!

Prayer Focus:

Do I realize and am I enjoying the richness I have in Christ?

Am I living by His Power?

Am I seeking Him daily so that He may enlighten my heart?

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 16). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 16). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁴ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 16). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.