

God's Inheritance

10-25-26

Ephesians 1:15-16 (NIV)

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I believe this is referring to v.13. Therefore, this thanks and prayer could be read as the following:

Ephesians 1:15-16 (NIV)

For this reason, ... (since you were sealed with the Holy Spirit) ... I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

The prayer is that we as believers sealed with the Holy Spirit, would continue to embrace this Spirit of wisdom and revelation in order to know the infinite God better.

Ephesians 1:17 (NIV)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know HIM better.

We should ask that the Holy Spirit to give us more wisdom and revelation concerning God and how to apply this knowledge to our life.

The Holy Spirit God has already made provision for this. The prayer is that, as believers, our eyes would be opened, and we could see all that God has for us.

Ephesians 1:18-19a (NIV)

¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which HE has called you, (to know) the riches of HIS glorious inheritance in (the saints) HIS holy people, ¹⁹and (also know) HIS incomparably great power for us who believe.

Bottom line, as believers sealed by the Holy Spirit, we are just scratching the surface grasping for the fullness of God. Therefore, the prayer is “that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which God has called us.” God has called us to a glorious hope, but there is so much we don’t know.

Therefore, we ask God to open our eyes; give us enlightenment provided by the Holy Spirit that opens our minds.

Psalms 119:18 (ESV)

Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

We should pray this every time we open our Bibles. Now, for some enlightenment, note the last clause in Ephesians 1:18.

Ephesians 1:18b (NIV)

(we need to know) the riches of God's glorious inheritance in (the saints) HIS holy people.

ESV says saints, NIV correctly interprets it as God's holy people or those sealed by the Holy Spirit. As the church, God's Holy people, let us think about the inheritance we have from God. Process the abundant, glorious treasures we are to receive from God. As we saw last week, we are in awe of our inheritance from God. But now we discover that the church is God's inheritance. God values us more than anything in all creation. The church, God's people are God's inheritance. The church is God's treasure, HIS glory for all eternity. God even gives us an OT physical picture so we can comprehend the church being God's inheritance.

Deuteronomy 4:20 (ESV)

But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of HIS own inheritance, as you are this day.

Being God's inheritance has special privileges. As God's inheritance, HE wants us to know that we possess HIS incomparable great power and that nothing is impossible for HIM.

Ephesians 1:19a (NIV)

(seek and know) God's incomparably great power for us who believe.

As those who believe, sealed with the Holy Spirit, God's inheritance, we have the same power God used when HE resurrected Jesus from the grave. By this same power, which we have, God placed the resurrected Jesus above all the earthly and heavenly creation

Ephesians 1:19b -21 (NIV)

This power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰HE exerted when HE raised Christ from the dead and seated HIM at HIS right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

God wants us to know, wants us to experience, the mighty power of God. God wants us to know that HIS mighty resides in the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)

²²And God placed all things under Christ's feet and appointed Christ to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is Christ's body, the fullness of Christ who fills everything in every way.

God gave Christ everything and then gave Christ to the church. Christ is the head of HIS body the church. The Church has authority and power to overcome all opposition because her leader and head is Jesus Christ, Lord of all.

Let me summarize it; the church is essential:

Ephesians 1:22 (ESV)

God put all things under Christ's feet and gave Christ ... to the church.

The church is a living functioning body!

Colossians 1:18 (ESV)

Christ is the head of the body, the church.

Conclusion!

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

And there is salvation in no one else but Jesus, for there is no other NAME under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.