



Ephesians Sermon Series
Supports Session 2: Remembered
Potential Sermon Title: That the Eyes of Your Heart
May be Enlightened
Passage: Ephesians 1:15-23

Connection to Session 2

Paul prayed that we would be able to grasp these great truths—that we would be truly enlightened in the depths of our hearts about the wealth of God’s inheritance and the greatness of His power for believers.

Introduction/Opening

Wouldn’t it be great if the non-Christians around us could look at the church and see us living with an inspiring hope based on a profound sense of divine calling on our lives? They could see that our lives are filled with a deep contentment as though we were blessed with wealth beyond measure. And they could see that our lives demonstrate an incredible power to overcome every temptation and every obstacle that would keep us from feeling completely fulfilled in life. Wouldn’t it be great if they could see that we have a wisdom that far surpasses the wisdom of this world?

But notice that this is not Paul’s prayer. He doesn’t pray that the world will see this; he prays that we will see this. We need to be enlightened. God has so much more for us than what most Christians have experienced. And if we learn to see it, and then live it, then perhaps the world will see it and be drawn to this life as well.

Outline

1. The People to be Enlightened (Eph. 1:15-16)
 - a. Those who have faith in the Lord Jesus
These people are already “faithful saints” (1:1), but Paul still never stops praying that they will realize even more of what God has for them.
True faith in Jesus Christ is foundational and prior to any hope for true spiritual enlightenment.
 - b. Those who love the saints
Christian love is a necessary element of true Christian faith. Jesus said it is what demonstrates we are truly His disciples (John 13:34-35); Paul said that without it we are nothing but “a noisy gong” (1 Cor. 13:1); John said that it is how we know “that we have passed from death to life” (1 John 3:14).
As with faith, love is foundational and prior to any hope for true spiritual enlightenment.

2. The God Who Enlightens (Eph. 1:17)
 - a. All three persons of the Trinity are involved in this revelation.
 - b. The ultimate goal is more “knowledge of him.” In the three-fold list that follows (vv. 18-19); the hope is from God’s calling, the wealth is from God’s inheritance, and the power comes from God’s strength.

3. The Content of the Enlightenment (Eph. 1:18-23)
 - a. Hope
This hope comes from living with the awareness of a divine calling. This calling gives us a sense of a higher purpose for our lives today as well as a heavenly home for the future.
 - b. Wealth
The “glorious inheritance in the saints” probably refers primarily to heaven but may also include all the many blessings we can be assured of in this life knowing that we are part of God’s family.
The wealth described in this passage is only seen by the eyes of an enlightened heart (v. 18), not by the eyes of someone who is greedy for worldly prosperity.
 - c. Power
The power is demonstrated toward us (v. 19), in the grave (v. 20), in the heavens (v. 21), and in the church (vv. 22-23).

Conclusion

Have the eyes of your heart been enlightened? Can you sense the hope of God’s calling? Can you begin to imagine the riches of His inheritance? Can you feel His power in your life? If not, don’t pretend, but pray. Place your faith in Christ; link arms with others who have placed their faith in Christ. Bow to the One who has all authority over everything, and He will lift you higher, fill you fuller, and show you more than you ever imagined.

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