

Paul's Prayers

For the Ephesians

Eph. 1:15-23

For the Ephesians

- *Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making **mention of you in my prayers**: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may **give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**, 18 the **eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know.** Eph. 1:15-18*

An Enlightened Understanding

- while *we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.* 2 Cor 4:18
- Walking by faith and not by sight 2Cor. 5:7
- Faith is the evidence of things not seen Heb. 1:1
- Not receiving, but seeing from afar embraced them
- We Reckon (logic) Heb. 11:13-16; Rom. 8:18
- We know (video) Eph. 1:18
- We Set our minds on things above Col. 3:1-3
- We Fix our eyes on Jesus. Heb. 12:2

- *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. Eph 1:18-21*

What Paul asked God to Give:

Eyes of your hearts enlightened so you may know:

(1) What is the “HOPE OF HIS CALLING”

(2) What are the “RICHERS OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS”

(3) What is the “EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US WHO BELIEVE”

Can we elaborate and speak in an animated manner about them? Do they excite and thrill us? Do we Pray?

(1) The Hope of Your Calling

- Life after death in Paradise; Lk 23:43; Phil 1:21-24; 2Cor 12:1-8; Lk 9:29-31;
- Second Coming of Christ 1Th. 4:18-18; 1Cor 15:53-54; 2Pet. 3:10-13
- Resurrection 1Cor. 15:35-56; Phil 3:20; 1Jn 3:1-2
- Judgment Day Rev. 20:
- New Heaven & New Earth

Day of our Death

- This very day be with Me in paradise
- To die is gain... is very far better
- Keep My word... never see death
- Lazarus died and carried by angels... comforted
- Moses and Elijah appear in Glory
- Look at the unseen ... are eternal
- Day of death better than day of birth

Day Jesus Comes Again

- In the twinkling of an eye
- Trumpet will sound
- Jesus will appear in the clouds
- Voice of the archangel
- Dead in Christ rise
- We shall be changed
- Meet the Lord in the air

Resurrection Day

- we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is 1Jn. 1:2-3
- transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body Phil. 3:20-21
- as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. 1Cor. 15:46-49

So also is the Resurrection of the Dead

- 42 It is sown a perishable body
- it is raised an imperishable body;
- 43 it is sown in dishonor,
- it is raised in glory;
- it is sown in weakness,
- it is raised in power;
- 44 it is sown a natural body,
- it is raised a spiritual body.

The Day of Judgment

- the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 2Pet. 2:9
- But the heavens and the earth are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2Pet. 3:7
- Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 1Jn. 4:17

A Great White Throne

- Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. Rev. 20:11-12

Heaven

- The crown jewel of our hope.
- quality of our eternal life based on the beauty, complexity and ability to enjoy the place where we live it.
- The resurrected body raised in: *incorruption, glory, power and immortality. 1 Cor 15:42-44, 56*
- *Our home will reflect this body. 1 Cor 15:47-49; 1 Pet 1:3-6*

Heaven

- From the beginning God has promised:
 - A City Heb 11:10
 - A heavenly country Heb 11:13-16
- This Country will be found in the new heavens & earth 2Pet 3:9-13
- It is here:
 - We lay up Treasures Mt 6:19-21; 19:21
 - Our Great Reward Mt 5:12

What is our Attitude?

- comfort one another 1 Th. 4:18
- -- looking for and hastening(anticipation)
- who eagerly wait for Him Heb. 9:28
- like men who wait for their master, be Ready
- eagerly waiting for redemption of our body.
- we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord
- Feeling these things we can sing and mean:
- This World is not My Home
- Here we are but Straying Pilgrims

(2) Riches of Glory Of His Inheritance In The Saints

- Riches – Abundance wealth
- Glory – magnificence preeminence
- Determined both by quantity or quality.
- Millions of dollars Priceless Painting
- Gem Antique
- His Inheritance:
 - 1. God's inheritance for the saints.
 - 2. God's inheritance of the saints.
- Already did 1 “Hope of our Calling.”
- What will God Receive for all His Efforts?

God's Inheritance

- **Gen 1-2 Material Creation - Great Effort**
- **Desined to be burned up. – 2 Pet 3:10-12**
- **Only eternal souls are left**
- **Souls of the wicked.**
- **No Pleasure in their death. Ezek 33:11**
- **Cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:11-15**
- **All that is left is the Saints**

- *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Mt 13:41-43*

God's Inheritance is the Saints

- All that God has done in Gen 1-2
- All that God has done in the eternal purpose
- All that God has done... has only one return – the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
- His Inheritance – The Saints;
- He sees them as riches and glory
- Like we would see a gold nugget; diamond; Antique, etc.
- We need to see it how he sees it!

The Saints are God's Inheritance

- They are the gold, silver precious stones God will receive at the end.
- We need to see this as God sees it!
- Changes our view of evangelism
- Changes our view of Edification
- Changes our view of church discipline

- Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints” Ps. 116:15

- *The Lord their God will save them in that day, As the flock of His people. For they shall be like the jewels of a crown, Zech 9:16*
- *Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. 17 "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." Mal 3:16-17*

What we see and consider: Our Choice

- while *we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are **seen are temporary**, but the things which are **not seen are eternal**.* 2 Cor 4:18
- Walking by faith and not by sight 2Cor. 5:7
- Faith is the evidence of things not seen Heb. 1:1
- Not receiving, but seeing from afar embraced them
- We Reckon (logic) Heb. 11:13-16; Rom. 8:18
- We know (video) Eph. 1:18
- We Set our minds on things above Col. 3:1-3
- We Fix our eyes on Jesus. Heb. 12:2

*EXCEEDING GREATNESS
OF HIS POWER*

- **Power- access to a substance like electricity or a material(fuel). makes things easier.**

Greatness of His Power

- *The gospel is the power of God to salvation to every one that believes Rom. 1:16*
- *The word of God, which also effectively works in you that believe. 1Th. 2:13*
- *“as the rain and the snow watering the earth, making it bring forth and bud.” Isa. 55:10-11*
- *For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword” Heb. 4:12*