

Title: What God wants you to know

Text: Ephesians 1:18-23

<sup>Let's</sup>  
Let's take our Bibles and turn to Ephesians chapter 1. I want to pick up where we left off ~~last Sunday~~ <sup>This morning</sup>. ~~These verses are part of~~ This is a prayer. It is one of two prayers that Paul prays in the little letter to the Ephesian Christians. Ephesians chapter 1 beginning at Vs 18....

(Read Eph. 1:18-23)

Prayer

*This morning*  
You know, I really <sup>love</sup> like this ~~verses~~ passage of scripture... <sup>It is really a blessing</sup> ~~Last Sunday~~ we look at some principles about one's motives in prayer. How and why we should pray. Then, we looked at the person who can <sup>answer our prayers</sup> ~~make our requests known~~. You see, it is because of who God is that the things that we request in prayer can actually happen in our lives. We need to know God. We need to be born again. And <sup>when</sup> ~~we~~ we are saved, the eyes of our heart ~~has~~ been enlightened. And <sup>we</sup> ~~you~~ can see the things that God wants <sup>us</sup> ~~you~~ to see.

I John 1:7 says "if we walk in the light as Jesus is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin."

In other words, when I am in the light, I am a Christian. When I have the light of Jesus Christ operating in my life, I can have spiritual understanding and see things <sup>in the knowledge of Jesus</sup> in the knowledge of Jesus.

(2) And this brings us to <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ things that God really want us ~~to~~ know. What principles does God want us to know in our lives.

I happened to believe as a result of studying this text, ~~I happen to believe~~ that these three things are the three things that are bothering most people. And after we finish this, I think you are going to see something that maybe you have not seen before as ~~to~~ what is the real solution to three areas that are continually bothering people. What God wants you to know in this passage is fundamental to ~~problems~~ problems that you and I face. And I hope you see that in these moments together.

Vs 18 says.."I pray that the eyes of your heart maybe enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling."

Now, we looked at that this mornning. The hope of our calling brings assurance to our life. We are not dependent upon the things of this world. Jesus is our anchor. He is our hope

Then Paul goes on and prays for two more things as to why our eyes need to be enlightened. One: the riches of the glory of His inheritance" And two: the surpassing greatness of His power toward us:

Now, let's look at these two things.

I pray that God would give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge about Jesus because your eyes are enlightened so that you would know ~~what is the hope of your calling.~~"

The point is that if you don't know more about Jesus, you get insecure. Confessions and doubts comes into your life.....Boy, this is a precious passage.

(25) Secondly, Vs 18, "his inheritance makes us valuable..." I said <sup>this means</sup> that these three things affect every area of your life. We are talking, now, about self worth and self-esteem. How valuable, how worthy you are.

A lot of people are coping out on life because they don't see any worth or value in life. A lot of people take their own lives because they get so depressed.

WHAT MAKES YOU VALUABLE? ...This scripture really blessed. In fact, I read it wrong at first. Maybe you had the same problems that I did.

Look at Vs 18 again. It says "what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Now, back in Vs 11 of this chapter, <sup>Paul</sup> takes about the fact that we have obtained an inheritance. Meaning, our inheritance in Jesus and what he has done for us. But, did you read <sup>this</sup> correctly at the end of Vs 18? It is not talking about our inheritance in Jesus. It is talking about His inheritance in us. And all of a sudden I stopped and said, "Wow, that is incredible." Jesus has a claim <sup>on</sup> ~~into~~ my life. He has an inheritance in me. I am valuable to Jesus... No matter what you think!.....

I am valuable to him. Now, you don't see that now. But one day it is going to be glory. You are going to see things come out of this body that you never have believed could happen. And at that moment God will be honored and praised.

The Bible says in 2 Thess. that one day when Jesus comes, he will be glorified in his saints.

Colossians 3:4 says "when Christ who is our life shall appear, then we will appear with him in what?.....glory....."

(4)

What is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in ME???????

Well, I don't realize it all right now, friends, but when He comes again I will And you will also.

I am valuable to Jesus.

But, what do we do? We believe the worlds" line all the time. We start comparing ourself to others. We do this to feel valuable. We think of little awards and gifts and trophies and benefits and salary and new jobs and new titles and new offices and new carpets, and new homes and new cars and on and on we go...They just keep programing us and programing us. And we keep going down that little road. It is amazing!

Aren't you sick of that? I don't know about you but I am..Yet, I fall into that trap every day just like you do.

Listen, you are wasting your time if you think those things make you valuable. You let your business or your job or some local club give you your worth, man, you are in trouble...Your in trouble...They could cut you out so fast. Do you think they care about you?....

only

Listen, the think that makes you valuable is the Lord....PRAISE GOD.... I don't care what a thousand people think of you. He thinks I am important... And he says that He has an inheritance, a stake in my life. And one day I am going to be glorified....PRAISE THE LORD....

Some of you, I am not sure you are ever going to get excited....(Ha) Aren't you excited about that? I feel like calling some of you out byf name and find out what you believe.....

This is fantastic. I am valuable to God. I am tired of all of this comparison in the world. Comparing one another...Trying to be as good as some one else....Thinking we are valuable because of our job or the moneyd we make and all of that junk.

Listen, let's get back to what the Bible says. I am valuable to God, Jesus loves me. He has done a tremendous work in my life. And one day it is going to be displayed for everyone to see. I will be a trophy of his grace because he will be glorified in my life.....Praise God! May His coming be soon...That is is also true of your life as a b@liever....

(3) And this third area also deals with a lot of problems in your life.

"That we may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and third, what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe." His power makes us great. Nothing else. His power makes us great. That is what he is saying. That is fantastic.

By the way, look at the last part of Vs 19. It says "these are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might."

Three different words there fore "power" or "strength." And they are all different. There is a very important point here that I want you to see.

Look at that last word. The word "might." This is talking about inherent strength. What a God is in himself. That would be the word "source." It is talking about the sources of ~~the~~ strength. It is in God.

(2) The second word which is translated "strength" is a word meaning "the display of power". It is a word referring to "results." How God's power results in my life. That is, how His power is displayed.

Example: If I overcome a sinful habit in my life, God's power was displayed by me having victory in that area. You see, it is very practical.

If I am bold enough to share christ to someone, God 's power is being displayed. Are you following me. All those things are being said in the Bible to be the power of God.

Let's suppose right now that I lack a little confidence in my relationship to God. And all of a sudden, through the Word, God gives me some assurance. At that point God's power is now displayed as I now have assurance.

Let's suppose I am really troubled about a problem that I am having in my business or personal life or whatever. It is really driving me crazy. And all of a sudden God gives me peace. The sweet peace that passes all understanding I have a hold on it. I understand his plan. And I rest in the Lord. His power is being displayed.

Now, some people think that you work that up yourself. Oh, no... Remember, the word "might" refers the source. The middle word is talking about "results". How it is displayed. It has to come from the right source.

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(3) Now, the first word which is translated "working" is our English word "energy". And this is dealing with the means or process to get to the result.

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Now, follow this: The sources comes from God. The process being worked in my life is by God. And the result, me displaying his power, is also God's power.....**WOW!!**.....This is from God ..beginning to end...

( ) God's power will make you great! That is what this verse is saying.

And to prove this, he lays out four lines of proof in Vs 19-23. In fact in

*of*  
Vs 20 when it says that "He brought about" it should be the word "energy" ~~again~~ again. He worked it in Christ. He worked it in him and he will work it in you. You and I can experience the same power that was experienced in Christ. What are those things?

(1) One, is resurrection. He said, Vs 20, "when He raised Him from the dead." That is pretty powerful. That same power is working in our lives..

Proof: God raised Jesus from the dead. And that same power is in you.

(2) Secondly, the exaltation of Christ.... Vs 20 says that Jesus is seated at God's right hand in the heavenly places." Jesus ascended into heaven and He sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

That same power is available to *you and me*.

(3) Third, his authority. You talk about power. Vs 21 says that He is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come."

That is power. You talk about authority. That is real authority. And that is available to me. His power which he worked in Christ is working in us, people. That is tremendous.

(4) The fourth thing is that his present position is proof of that. Vs 22... "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church which is His body."

Now, remember, in this first chapter Paul is telling us about the great blessings that are ours in Christ. But, at this point, he is going to lead us into a discussion concerning our relationship to other believers in the body of Christ. And at this point, he is making a tremendous transition.

He is saying that God made Christ as head over all things to the church which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all."

And that is a transitional verse because Paul goes on to discuss the body of Christ and our relationship one to another.

At this point, just let me say this: What Paul is saying here is vital to our understanding about God's power, about how valuable we are to God, and about how secure we are in our relationship to God. He is saying that it is all centered in Jesus. That even in the church it is the fulness of his life that is being manifested. He fills all in all.

Now what does that mean?....Take the first word "~~fill~~"...It is in a tense in Greek referring to ~~circumstances~~ <sup>SITUATIONS</sup>....Jesus Christ, the fulness of his life is literally filling every situation in my life...

~~Do you understand~~  
~~Is that true about you?~~.....Do you understand what Paul is saying about the centrality of Jesus Christ in all of our lives?

I have a feeling that many of us just sort of add Christ. We add him to all the things that we are doing. You don't add Him. He isn't just one of many things in your life. He should be everything. He fills every situation... Every ministry...every activity...He fill it all.

Now, the last word "all" is in the masculine tense meaning people. He fills all situation in all the believers.....

And to me it is simply saying that Jesus is lord of everything. He is number one. He is the center of it all.

Now, let's go back and review the whole <sup>Prayer</sup> passage. Paul ask God to give to people spiritual understanding. That it comes in the area of full knowledge of about Christ. The more you know about Jesus, the more you will understand. He said that the reason you can't understand is because the eyes of your heart has been enlightened as a Christian. And if you do understand this, there are three things that will come to you: The hope of his calling...how valuable you are.....and also the greatness of his power in your life.

And the truth of all of that is the resurrection of Christ, his exaltation, his authority, and his present position as authority in the church.

But the fulness of that life that you and ~~all~~ I are coming to know is seen in every situation and in all the believers.

The wonderful grace of God is working in peoples lives. And all of this I am to know. I am to know more about him today than I did yesterday.

I hope that is happening in your life....

Let's close in prayer