

LESSON 3 - EPHESIANS 1:15-23

Paul's deep desire was that the Ephesian Christians would grasp the great wealth they had in Christ, but for that to happen there must be the opening of the eyes...by the Spirit of God. So tremendous is this truth that Paul uses it as a prayer for these believers as well as for us. In verses 15-23, Paul moves us to understand not only the hope of our calling and the riches of our inheritance...but the power of God behind it all.



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Take a moment to quiet your heart before the Lord, open your heart to His instruction as you begin this study lesson.

Slowly read through Ephesians 1:15–23.

- a. As you go through this passage, underline the specific elements Paul prayed for this church.

- b. Which is most meaningful to you and why?

2. What do these verses teach you about God (His character, His works, His promises) and then about yourself as a Christian?

3. If given the opportunity, how would you share these truths with someone who needed it?

"If we make it a habit only to approach God with a list of requests but seldom enjoy His presence or get caught up in His majesty, then we are not experiencing prayer as God intended."

Woodrow Kroll

CUTTING THE STONE



These verses (15–18) are a powerful prayer for a believer. Take a moment and pray these verses before the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart and help you pray them through. Now...think of someone you know who needs this prayer prayed over him or her and begin to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit for the insight and faith to live out these truths.

9. Which of the following statements best describe the biblical meaning of hope:
- Wishful thinking
 - Absolute certainty of future good
 - Strong confidence in God's promises
 - Wanting something good to happen
10. How is hope related to your calling?
- a. What would it mean to live as a person of hope...rather than hopelessness?

11. In verse 18, Paul writes about the believer's rich and glorious inheritance. Look up the following verses and note some of riches we have in Christ:

Colossians 2:2-3

Colossians 1:27

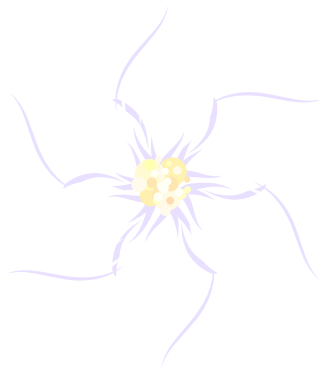
Ephesians 3:16

Philippians 4:19

Romans 11:33

Ephesians 1:7

a. Which of the above has had the greatest impact on your life as a believer?



STONE QUARRY



*Does this passage stir you up to pray God's Word in your life?
If so, will you take this challenge?*

*For the next seven days, pray the following passages for yourself and those
closest to you.*

Record the results and answers to your prayer.

Wednesday: Pray Ephesians 1:15–18

Thursday: Pray Colossians 1:9–12

Friday: Pray Philippians 1:9–11

Saturday: Pray Ephesians 3:14–21

Sunday: Pray 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

Monday: Pray Romans 13:11–14

Tuesday: Pray Colossians 3:15–16

Results & Answers to Prayer:



USING A TROWEL

Read Ephesians 1:19-23

12. How does Paul convey the power of God in these verses?
- a. Why do you think Paul prays that we would know the power of God rather than that we would receive the power of God?
13. In biblical times, the name of a person implied his character and authority. Why would it be important for Christ's name to be above all others?

"Let any name be uttered, whatever it is, Christ is above it; it is more exalted than that which the name uttered affirms."

F. B. Meyer

14. Describe the authority God gave Christ in verse 22.

15. Should the truth that Christ's power is exalted above all else affect the way we live as believers? If so, in what way?
16. What metaphor does Paul use to describe the Church?
- a. In your own words, explain how the Church is the "body" of Christ.



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Chapter one closes with the power and authority of Christ and the wealth we inherit as part of His body of believers.

Take a moment to answer the following questions for your time of discussion after the message.

Read Ephesians 1:15–23.

1. What truths in these verses ministers to you specifically?
2. Think through this past week; how would you assess your prayer life?

- a. How does your prayer compare to Paul's prayer?

- b. Is there anything that needs to change or be revived in your prayer life?

- c. Which of the things prayed for in these verses do you need to pray for most? Please explain.

3. Again, Paul prayed for believers to know God deeper. What does knowing God involve?

- a. In light of that, how well do you know Him?

4. In what ways have you experienced God's power in your own life?

- a. As you consider your own fears, anxieties, and worries, what power do they have compared to God?

