

“Open The Eyes Of My Heart”

Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon Series: “Be Rich”

Introduction: After praising God as He shares rich theology in verses 3-14, Paul shares his prayer for the church at Ephesus. The prayer connects to the previous verses as he basically asks that they would receive the spiritual enlightenment they need to understand and apply the spiritual blessings they have in Christ. We need the eyes of our hearts opened as well so we can see how blessed we truly are. We often hear these truths without acting like they are true of us.

Main Idea: God wants us to deeply understand and live like we are richly blessed in Jesus.

1. We can deeply understand and live like our future is secure.

In other words, we can live with hope. Biblical hope is a “know so” type of thing instead of a “hope so” mindset. We can face what is externally an uncertain future with confidence because of God’s calling. This prayer refers back to the doxology of verses 3-14 where Paul is glorifying God the Father, Son, and Spirit because God has chosen us, redeemed us, and secured us forever. He has called us so He is going to take care of us and work out His eternal plans for us (Romans 8:28-29), and we can live with hope and confidence because of this.

2. We can deeply understand and live like we are highly valued by God.

This is saying that we are God’s inheritance, and He is glorified in us. We are more valuable to Him as His purchased possession and dearly beloved children than all the splendors of creation.

3. We can deeply understand and live like God’s power is in us.

Paul uses four different Greek words to describe the greatness of God’s power. He begins with the word, “exceeding,” which means, “power beyond measure” (Wuest). This is hard to comprehend, but this is the same power that He worked in Jesus when He:

A. Raised Jesus from the dead. This same power is operating in us through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11).

B. Seated Jesus at His right hand. This throne is a place of honor, glory, and authority from which Jesus rules. Jesus has the name above every name and is far above all things, including the evil spiritual powers.

C. Subjected everything under Jesus. Jesus is the sovereign ruler over everything.

D. Made Jesus Head over everything for the benefit of the Church. Jesus rules over all things, but He does it for the benefit of the Church because He is the Head of the Church. We are His body. He is a love gift to the Church from the Father. The Church is not an institution, but we are in vital connection with Him. Kenneth Wuest writes, “As the mystical body of Christ, the fellowship of believers [is] regarded as an organic spiritual unity in a living relation to Christ, subject to Him, animated by Him, and having His power operating in it.” Jesus is working through the Church to accomplish His mission.

Conclusion: If you are not a Christian repent of your sins and trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at everything He offers you!

For those of us who are Christians, will we believe and live according to these truths? Will we pray for ourselves and each other that God would give us wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him and open the eyes of our hearts? Think about who we are and what we have in Jesus! If we really believe and live according to this, it will change everything in our lives and churches!