

THE EYES OF THE HEART

Paul's Prayer for Wisdom, Hope, Inheritance, and Power

KEY PASSAGE Ephesians 1:15-23

Purpose: To see the church through God's eyes by understanding the hope to which He has called us, the riches of His glorious inheritance, and the immeasurable greatness of His power toward believers.

I. Introduction to the Prayer

- Paul expresses deep thanksgiving for the Ephesian church's faith in Jesus and love for the saints.
- He prays that God would grant them a spirit of wisdom and revelation to know Him more intimately.

II. The Three Pillars of Paul's Prayer

Paul desires for the “eyes of our hearts” to be enlightened so that we understand three vital truths:

- **1. The Hope to which He has called us:** Our life is not limited to the present. We live in the overlap of the current kingdom and the future eternity.
- **2. The Riches of His Inheritance:** We are God's inheritance. He chose us to bear His image.
- **3. The Immeasurable Greatness of His Power:** The same power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him above all authority is currently directed toward us, the church.

III. Conclusion: Seeing the Church as God Sees It

- While we may experience hurt or frustration within the church, we are called to view it through God's lens.
- The church is His body, the fullness of Him, and the central object of His immeasurable power.

KEY TRUTH God opens the eyes of our hearts so that we may know our hope, recognize His treasured people, and live by His resurrection power.

Discussion Questions

1. The “Eyes of the Heart”

Paul prays for our hearts to be enlightened. What are some elements of our culture’s worldview that compete with the worldview of hope?

2. God’s Inheritance

How does it change your perspective to know that you are considered God’s “glorious inheritance” rather than just a beneficiary of His blessings?

3. Living in the Overlap

We live in the “already and not yet” of the kingdom. How can we practically live with an eternal worldview while managing the responsibilities of our current lives?

4. Experiencing His Power

The sermon describes the power that raised Jesus from the dead as being available to us. Where do you need to see resurrection power working in your life or our community right now?

5. Grace in Community

The sermon suggests that we should approach the church with “forgiveness of the transformable.” How do we hold grace for one another’s sinful tendencies while still pursuing growth together?

Personal Application

What is one way you will ask God to enlighten the eyes of your heart this week?

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