

OUTLINE LESSON FIVE

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

I. Review

- A. God is sovereign and personal- His personal nature is revealed in our Lord Jesus
- B. The triune God sovereignly/lovingly chose, adopted, redeemed, gave an inheritance, and sealed each of us, even while we were enemy combatants
- C. We are already redeemed by Jesus' blood, AND sealed by the Spirit for future glorious redemption

II. Ephesians 1:15-23 Paul's prayer

A. Structure

- 1. v. 15-16 thanksgiving for their faith and love
- 2. v. 17-19A who Paul addresses and what he is asking for
- 3. v. 19B- 23 three glorious events displaying God's power

B. v. 15-16

- 1. v. 15
 - a. "For this reason"
 - i. Points back to salvation= the root
 - ii. Points forward to growing faith and love= the fruit
 - b. Faith in the Lord Jesus- He is the object of their trust
 - i. Biblical faith is in facts- Jesus really lived, died, and rose again
 - ii. Faith is exercised when you maintain your confidence in Him and what He has done, not your own abilities, etc.
 - c. Love for all the saints
 - i. Appreciation for His love leads to empowering by Him to love one another
 - d. Faith and love= common themes in prayers we are learning
- 2. v. 16
 - a. Unceasing thanksgiving- WHO is he thanking? Not them but God!
 - b. Are you thankful for your brothers and sisters? We can be grateful for them and constantly pray for their growth in faith and love!

C. v. 17-19A who is Paul praying to and what is he asking for?

- 1. v. 17
 - a. Who? God the Father
 - i. Father of glory- does not beget glory but He is the source and wellspring of glory > all His attributes
 - ii. Jesus is the radiance of His glory- we experience God's glory in Him without being consumed
 - iii. The Holy Spirit produces those glorious attributes in us
 - b. The means by which answer will come- the Holy Spirit
 - i. Wisdom- not just a body of facts but having that knowledge empower a life lived as Jesus would live it
 - 1) Isaiah 11:2 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

II) James 3:17 God's wisdom is pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere

ii. Revelation- the Spirit reveals the things of Jesus- John 16:14

c. The result is true experiential knowledge $W + R > K$

2. v. 18-19A how will this be accomplished

a. How does this happen? Eyes of our heart enlightened- passive, received from God when we make ourselves available to Him

i. Pray for receptivity!

b. What is Paul asking for?

i. Hope, riches, power- when pursued in earthly realm> much strife and wickedness

ii. HOPE= aspect of God's calling still anticipated

I) We are redeemed and awaiting redemption

II) It is HIS calling- sovereignly initiated

iii. RICHES of the glory of His inheritance

iv. POWER- surpassing greatness- it is infinite! We must ask!

D. v. 19B-23 the most glorious and revealing displays of God's great power

1. v. 20 resurrection power> undoing of the curse of death!

a. The center of our faith- we are also raised up with Him!

2. v. 20 exaltation power- Jesus is seated in the heavenly places- we are too!

a. Jesus rules over all powers in heaven, on earth, in every age!

3. v. 22-23 He rules over everything as the Head of the church> His body

a. Everything He does, He does for His church, His body

b. We are indestructibly united to Him and to each other> faith in Him and love for one another

III. Why does the Lord want you to pray for these things?

A. Because you have each been lovingly and sovereignly chosen, adopted, redeemed, given an inheritance, and sealed for the day of redemption!

B. Because these are the spiritual blessings that God wants you to have in whatever circumstances you may find yourself!

1. Growing faith and love

2. A thankful, praying heart

3. Wisdom, revelation, experiential knowledge

4. Enlightened heart which understands and appropriates eternal hope, riches, and power!

C. You will experience in such joy as you spend time with your great, holy, loving, sovereign, gracious and merciful King praying these blessings into your own life and the lives of family, friends and even the enemies Jesus said we are to love!

1. Your kingdom come, Your will be done!

PRAYING TO YOUR SOVEREIGN AND PERSONAL GOD
EPHESIANS 1:15-23

1. Paul is thankful for the faith and love demonstrated by the saints in Ephesus. Are there aspects of your faith and love which you could ask our Savior to empower? How would your life be different if your faith were stronger and your love for others were more reflective of the deep love our sovereign King has shown to you? How can you be praying for faith and love to be multiplied in all of us, your sisters?

2. Read James 3:13-18. What are the hallmarks of earthly wisdom (v. 14-16)? To gain greater understanding of the wisdom which the Spirit will produce in you when you ask, think about the opposite of each of the characteristics James gives of wisdom from heaven, e.g. heavenly wisdom is considerate, therefore earthly wisdom would be self-centered. Is your gracious sovereign King helping you to know where you need empowering to walk wisely? Praise Him for conviction and His love for you in His discipline and power!

3. When you consider hope, riches, and power, are there ways in which you have depended on earthly provision of those things to feel safe or loved or valuable, instead of hoping in Jesus, delighting in your inheritance in Him, and depending on His limitless power? How can you use this prayer to ask for what you really need? How can you pray for different people you know whom God desires to bless with these treasures? You will notice that, as you use this same prayer to bring different people before the throne of grace, the prayer will take on different shapes, as you spend that time with your sovereign, loving, and faithful King.