

I. REVIEW

- A. Last week, we were introduced to the book of Ephesians—one of Paul’s thirteen letters, written from a Roman prison and considered one of his greatest works.
- B. Ephesians reveals the role of the Trinity in the redemptive plan, written by the Father, purchased by the Son, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.
- C. The letter is structured in three parts: chapters 1–3 describe the believer’s wealth in Christ, chapters 4–6 show how to walk in that wealth, and chapters 6:10–18 reveal how the believer stands in spiritual warfare.
- D. We also looked at seven primary spiritual blessings of the believer: being chosen, adopted, accepted, redeemed, given the revelation of His saving plan, receiving an inheritance, and being sealed by the Holy Spirit as the guarantee of that inheritance.

II. THE MAN WHO FINALLY SAW HIS WIFE

- A. In 2012, Allen Zderad had lived for years in near-total darkness due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. After receiving a “bionic eye” implant, he could finally see light, shapes, and movement again. But the most powerful moment came when he looked at his wife, he couldn’t see every detail, but for the first time in years, he could recognize her. What had always been there he could finally see.
- B. In our study in Ephesians today, we will see how Paul transitions from describing God’s why behind the redemptive story, and what has been given to us to a prayer for us to see it all rightly.
- C. **Paul understood that we cannot live out what we do not see.** Therefore, he devoted himself to intercessory prayer for the Ephesian believers, that they would see God rightly, understand who they are in Christ, and grasp the spiritual blessings given to them.

III. EPHESIANS 1:15-23

1. ***15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord***

Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

IV. VRS 15

1. ***15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints***

B. This verse highlights the two clearest marks of a genuine disciple of Jesus: faith and love. True faith is not merely believing in Jesus as Savior and Lord, it is evidenced by a life that consistently responds to Him in a way that is worthy of that belief.

C. The other evidence is genuine and sincere love for one another.

1. ***A new command I give you: Love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.-Jn 13:34-35***

2. ***The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.-Gala 5:6***

D. Paul echoes this truth in 1 Corinthians 13:13,

1. ***13 And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.***

E. Faith is the expression of a believer’s trust in God—their vertical relationship—and love is the evidence of a right relationship with others—their horizontal relationship.

- a) “Genuine faith, and love go together. For the magnet that draws sinners to himself also draws them together.”

V. VRS 16

1. ***16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:***
 - B. If verse 15 reveals the two primary evidences of a genuine life of a believer, faith and love, then verse 16 reveals the two primary disciplines that sustain that life, gratitude and prayer.
 - C. These are not optional add-ons, but core practices that shape how we see God, ourselves, and everything around us. **They don’t just express faith, they form it and guard it.**

VI. VRS 17

1. ***17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.***
 - B. After describing what God has done for the believer and revealing their identity in verses 1–14, Paul shifts into intercessory prayer that we would truly see what has been given to us, and learn how to walk it out in everyday life.

1. **THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE INVITATIONS TO INTERCESSION**

- C. The Spirit of wisdom and revelation is the Holy Spirit giving believers spiritual insight in order to open their eyes to understand God’s truth and empowering them to live it out.

D. **SPIRIT OF WISDOM**

1. Wisdom is practical, Spirit-given insight, the ability to see God rightly and view life from His perspective. It is the skill of applying truth to everyday living. It goes beyond knowledge; it is God-given understanding that shapes how we live. Wisdom empowers us to walk out what we see about God, and what He has done for us.

E. SPIRIT OF REVELATION

1. The Greek word for revelation refers to an unveiling, something hidden being uncovered. It is divine insight that cannot be discovered naturally, where God removes the veil and makes Himself known.
2. How they work together: Revelation is when God reveals truth; wisdom is when you understand that truth and know how to apply it. Revelation brings light, while wisdom provides clarity and direction.

a) *Revelation opens your eyes; wisdom shows you how to live out what you see.*

F. IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

1. The goal in view was that the believer might gain greater knowledge of God. The Greek word translated "knowledge" (epignosis) refers to exact, complete, experiential knowledge, not just abstract knowledge of God, or even facts about Him.
2. Paul wanted his readers to get to know God more intimately as their own personal heavenly Father, to become closer friends with Him.

a) *15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends -Jn 15:15*

VII. VRS 18

1. ***18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints***

B. The spiritual blessings purchased for us cannot be seen necessarily by physical sight, but spiritual. This is speaking of the inner ability to perceive and understand both what God has revealed to us and given to us.

1. ***open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.-Ps 119:118***

- C. When we can see rightly what God has given us it will cause us to live with hope, and when we live with hope we live in freedom. The hope here is primarily speaking of the future inheritance.
- D. In addition we need revelation to see why we are His inheritance. Not only do we have an inheritance, God does as well. We carry something of worth to God which is why He went to the extreme of death on a cross.

1. *9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, - 1Peter 2:9*

VIII. VRS 19

- A. In the closing verses of chapter 1, Paul emphasizes the power of God towards the believers, and reminds them that it's the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, seated Him above all things, and the source in which He rules and governs all things.

1. *19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,*

- B. Paul uses four different Greek words for power in these verses

- 1. (Power)Dunamis - supernatural power that accomplishes something
- 2. (Working) Energeia -supernatural power that is active and working
- 3. (mighty) Kratos - supernatural power for ruling and dominance
- 4. (might) Ischus - supernatural power that strengthens us

- a) Paul is using different terms to give complete insight to the overwhelming and unstoppable power of God that the believers have inherited, and been given.

C. “Towards us who believe”

1. Paul reveals that believers have inherited divine power, the same power that raised Jesus up from physical death has raised us up from spiritual death. It sustains us, transforms us, accomplishes God’s purposes through us, and establishes our authority over the powers of darkness.

IX. VRS 23

1. which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- B. Paul states that the church is the body of Christ in which He has filled all of it with all the spiritual blessings mentioned in the previous passages.
- C. The global church both in heaven and earth is the vessel that holds the fullness of all that Christ is and has done.