

We Got it! You Get it?

Ephesians 1.15-23

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST - wealthy, publisher - ART LOVER

heard of valuable piece of art HE MUST HAVE

EMPLOYED AGENT TO FIND IT - SEARCHED FOR MONTHS

AFTER A TWO YEAR SEARCH - HE FOUND IT!!!

STORED IN WAREHOUSE OF WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

PAUL wanted Ephesians to TO KNOW RICHES they HAD now IN X

SOME XTIANs ARE SEEKING A SECOND BLESSING

WHILE - NEVER UNDERSTANDING WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

TYPICAL PAUL's NT LETTER - Blessing / Thanksgiving / Prayer

SAME FORMAT - TAKES ENTIRE CHAPTER TO DO SO

vs. 3 - 14 TRUTHS OF SALVATION past,present,future / Father-Son-Spirit

1. Personal Benefit of Prayer – Why? Because we need it!

a. Weakness WE HAVE A PERSONAL POWER SHORTAGE

OUR GET UP AND GO - JUST GOT UP AND WENT

JESUS to DISCIPLES "The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Matthew 26.41

WOMAN WENT TO HOSPITAL TO SEE HER AILING HUSBAND

needed his signature to release finances to pay the bills

HE WAS TOO WEAK TO SIGN NAME - she needed witness to watch "X"

HIS WEAKNESS NEARLY WITHHELD THEIR WEALTH FROM HER

Even youths grow tired & weary, and young men stumble and fall Isaiah 40:30

Need for Christian Endurance: he who stands firm to the end will be saved

Matthew 24:13

Paul is WRITING this Letter from PRISON CELL – Well Aware of Weakness

NOT Only do we HAVE A MORTALITY Problem - Also MORALITY Problem

NEED PRAY FOR b. Sinfulness POWER OF SIN AT WORK IN US

v. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened

THIS SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS - JUDGMENT FROM GOD

the people..walk like blind men, because they have sinned Zephaniah 1:17

EVEN APOSTLE PAUL - POWERLESS TO OVERCOME SIN'S POWER

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out Romans 7.15-19

THIS IS OUR TESTIMONY - is it not???

POWER OF SINFUL NATURE NARRATED

Gentiles...the futility of their thinking... darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Ephesians 4:17-19

NEED PRAYER BECAUSE OF c. Opposition TO THE WORK OF GOD

PAUL'S FAREWELL MESSAGE TO ELDERS IN EPHESUS: I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. Be on your guard Acts 20.29

the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. Ephesians 2:2

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6.12

AGST OUR WEAKNESS - SINFULNESS & SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION

WE CANNOT OVERCOME ALONE - Paul knew we need prayer!

## 2. Paradox of Prayer

IF GOD HAS WORKED OUT OUR SALVATION - from beginning to end

THEN WHY PRAY?? IT IS USELESS??

DIFF BTWN - CHRISTIAN PREDESTINATION & ISLAMIC FATALISM

CLEARLY SEEN IN LAST TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

ISLAMIC NATIONS - will of God, nothing we can do about it

CHURCH - YES! act of God, we're commanded to do something about it

SET INTO MOTION GREAT ARMY OF PRAYER AND SERVICE

"For Paul, the knowledge that God was working was an inducement to prayer, not an excuse for neglecting it. It was because God was at work that he could pray with confidence."  
James Boice

WHY PRAY IF GOD IS NOT AT WORK? NOT IN CONTROL?

ONLY HE CAN SAVE MAN? v. 15,16 "for this reason...I have not stopped"

GOD USES PRAYER -Part of Process- ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE

BALANCE - DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY & HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES BOTH - even in same verse

The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."  
Luke 22:22

GOD ORDAINED DEATH of JESUS- JUDAS GUILTY of BETRAYAL

J.I. PACKER - Illustration from Modern Physics

LIGHT - SOLID EVIDENCE it consists of WAVES

SOLID EVIDENCE it consists of PARTICLES

CANNOT EXPLAIN HOW it is BOTH - CANNOT DENY it is EITHER

**God who PLANS All Things: GOD to whom WE PRAY about ALL THINGS**

### 3. Prompting to Prayer

v. 15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints

GOSPEL TRANSFORMED both their BELIEFS and THEIR BEHAVIOR

FAITH SHOWED ITSELF IN LOVE - NEED BOTH FAITH & WORKS

Necessity of follow-up care for new believers

live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Ephesians 4:1

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children Ephesians 5:1

ESSENCE OF PROTESTANT REFORMATION – JUSTIFICATION

NOT FAITH AND WORKS - FAITH THAT WORKS

SAVED BY FAITH ALONE - TRUE FAITH IS NEVER ALONE

PASTOR PAUL’S GREAT EXAMPLE - v. 16 “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers”

BEST WAY to GAIN LOVE FOR SOMEONE - PRAY FOR THEM - ALL

ALSO, SHOWS BIBLICAL WAY TO SHOW ENCOURAGEMENT

HOW TO FUEL A PERSONS PRIDE - praise them for something they do

HOW TO MAKE A PERSON DISCOURAGED - ignore the good they do

BBC "I have not stopped giving thanks for you"

"Paul tells them what judgment he had formed of them, and congratulated them before God" John Calvin

#### 4. Persistence in Prayer

v. 16 “I have not stopped giving thanks for you”

v. 17 “I keep asking”

Paul follows his own command to the Thessalonians “Pray without ceasing”

Constant AWARENESS OF GOD’S PRESENCE / WALKING WITH HIM

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty”  
Psalm 90.1

Jesus - WE SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY AND NOT GIVE UP -

He tells of a widow who persistently sought justice from a judge who says:

“Because this woman keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming.”  
Luke 18.5

#### 5. Petitions of Paul’s Prayer - What Paul asks for

Prayer For Knowledge of God - OUR GREATEST NEED - KNOW GOD

v. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

ATHEIST - there is no God to know

AGNOSTIC - does not know what he can know

APOSTLE- KNOWS God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,

WANTS US TO know him better.

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD

Jeremiah 9:23,24

SETTLE FOR GOOD SUBSTITUTES - STILL SECOND BEST

KNOWLEDGE BIBLE/ THEOLOGY/ TRADITION / MINISTRY

NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT - TO KNOW TRUE AND LIVING GOD

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.  
John 17:3

J.I. PACKER - wrote "Knowing God" - what does it mean to know God

1) Matter of PERSONAL DEALING "dealing with him as he opens up to you, and being dealt with by him as he takes knowledge of you"

2) PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT "in mind will and feeling...the believer rejoices when his God is honored and vindicated, and feels the acutest distress when he sees God flouted"

3) Matter of GRACE "it is a relationship in which the initiative, throughout is with God"

Another theologian - BARRY McGUIRE - "you can go to your college, you can go to your school, but if you don't know Jesus, you are an educated fool"

THIS IS A KNOWLEDGED OF BOTH Head and Heart - v. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know

TRUTHS OF SALVATION MUST BE "KNOWN" AND "LOVED"

Ephesians -Doctrinally sound/ Spiritually cold- Return to First Love - Rev. 2

LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL HEART - SOUL - MIND - STRENGTH

EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE -FILLS YOU UP- CHANGES LIFE

NO CONFLICT BETWEEN HEAD & HEART - FAITH & REASON

"Faith goes beyond reason, but rests on it. Knowledge is the ladder by which faith climbs higher, the springboard from which it leaps further...Thus knowledge and faith need each other. Faith cannot grow without a firm basis of knowledge; knowledge is sterile if it does not bring forth faith" John Stott

v. 18 that you may know the hope to which he has called you

WE'RE CALLED BY GRACE - THROUGH THE GOSPEL - INTO HOPE

Rob T.'s HOPE for Mother in Law / Year Ago Preached / Last Week Prayed

## PAUL'S TESTIMONY

God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace Galatians 1:15  
 him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light 1 Peter 2:9  
 the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ 1 Peter 5:10

## WORTH NOT DETERMINED BY BACKGROUND BUT BY CALLING

Potential IN-LAWS do not think VERY MUCH of THEIR Potential Son-in-Law  
 DAUGHTER: "I do not know where he came from, but I know where he is going"  
**that you may know the hope to which he has called you**

we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior,  
 Jesus Christ Titus 2:13

BIBLICAL HOPE IS NOT "hope so" = child who hopes for new toy

BIBLICAL HOPE IS CONFIDENT, ASSURANCE

we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God...and hope does not disappoint us  
 Romans 5:2,5

THEN PAUL LOOKS FORWARD TO THE - Prospects that Await Us

v. 18 "the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints"

## TWO EQUALLY POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS

1) We receive an inheritance from God / 2) We are God's inheritance

FIRST IS MORE LIKELY BECAUSE OF CONTEXT - BOTH ARE TRUE

HOLY SPIRIT is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of  
 those who are God's possession Ephesians 1:14

the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the  
 kingdom of light Colossians 1:12

PRAYS WE'LL KNOW- where we came from AND where we're going

## 6. Power of God Manifest in Prayer

PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD - what we need most

vs. 18,19 hope to which he has called you, (PAST) the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (FUTURE) and his incomparably great power for us who believe (PRESENT)

PASTOR TRIED to Talk W/ BOY AFTER CHURCH

PASTOR "I hope you learned alot about God today. If you tell me one thing God can do, I'll give you a big juicy apple"

BOY "Pastor, if you tell me one thing God CANNOT do, I'll give you a whole box of apples"

POWER = PRESENT Experience – CALL / Pastor - INHERITANCE / Future

WORLD SEEKS thru Money and Might - Power Ties & Power LUNCH

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection          Philippians 3:10

2.1 we were DEAD IN SINS / 2.5 we are MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST

a. God's Power Demonstrated in Christ >> Resurrection from the Dead

v. 20 POWER which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms

JESUS PREDICTED OWN RESURRECTION - NEVER DONE BEFORE

What POWER on Earth ACCOMPLISH SUCH MIRACLE? No power on earth!!

APOSTLE PETER PREACHED ON DAY OF PENTECOST

God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.          Acts 2:24

FOR CHRIST TO REMAIN DEAD WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE



How much power was necessary to take Christ, crucified, mutilated, disgraced, and dead, and to raise him in newness of life, radiant, triumphant, glorious, and place him at the right hand of God on his throne at the right hand of God on his throne in heaven? That same power is ours, if we trust in Christ, if we are members of his body, if we belong to his Church

Charles Erdman

## b. Enthronement over Evil

vs. 20,21 seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

### MANY NAMES OF SO-CALLED GODS OF ANCIENT EPHESUS

Diana or Artemis - gods of Rome - CAESARS - gods of Greece

PAUL DOES NOT DIGNIFY THEM TO MENTION BY NAME

FULFILLMENT OF DAVID'S WORDS - The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." Psalm 110:10

by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death Hebrews 2:14

JESUS IS SAVIOR - HE IS ALSO SOVEREIGN- NO GREATER POWER

FROM GOVERNMENTS TO GALAXIES - NO ONE GREATER

### 7. Primary Focus of Prayer – The Church

EPHESIANS IS THE LETTER OF THE CHURCH

v. 22 And God...appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

FILLS THE UNIVERSE - FILLS THE CHURCH IN A SPECIAL WAY

“two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” Matthew 18:20

POSSIBLE TRANSLATIONS

v. 23 "the fullness of him who fills everything in every way"

1) REFERS TO CHURCH - Church makes Christ full / complete  
 NOT IN TERMS OF HIS PERSON - BUT HIS WORK what He came to do  
 VINE/BRANCHES HEAD/BODY GROOM/BRIDE  
 TRUE TO SCRIPTURE BUT NOT CONTEXT -  
 CHRIST STANDS ALONE IN POWER - INDEPENDENT

\*\*\*2) THAT WHICH CHRIST FILLS - Christ fills the Church//Universe  
 FULLNESS OF DEITY IS IN CHRIST & HE FILLS THE CHURCH  
**Church is where Christ is**

a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit Ephesians 2:22

## 8. Place of Blessing in Prayer

// THE POWER of GOD addresses the PROBLEMS WE HAVE

### a. in Weakness

WHEN PAUL CONFESSED HIS WEAKNESS - GOD TOLD HIM  
 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."  
 Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's  
 power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9

GOLD IS REFINED BY FIRE - TESTS AND PURIFIES ITS QUALITY

**"A stream would lose its song if God took out the rocks"**

MOSES meekest man on earth - LEARNED THROUGH WEAKNESS

no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses...no one has ever shown the mighty power  
 or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S POWER UNTIL WE COME IN WEAKNESS

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

## b. through Suffering PATHWAY TO CROWN THROUGH THE CROSS

Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus

Ephesians 3:1

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

Ephesians 3:7

do not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Ephesians 3:13

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10,11

## NATURE OF RESURRECTION POWER EXPERIENCED

*fellowship of his sufferings, becoming like him in his death*

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

## c. with Boldness

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us

Ephesians 3.20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

Ephesians 6:10

## JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER - WORLD'S FIRST BILLIONAIRE

For many years SO WORRIED lived on milk and crackers - STOMACH  
RARELY GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP - GUARDS STOOD OUTSIDE DOOR  
until he began giving money away

Great Philanthropic efforts IMPROVED HEALTH - Lived to Old Age

NOT to STAND CONFIDENTLY IN CHRIST IS the SIN OF UNBELIEF

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

## Ephesians 1

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.