

Prison Epistles Week 3 Outline

I. Introduction

- The tension of having everything in Christ yet living spiritually empty
- Paul's context: under house arrest, unable to visit believers in person
- Paul's prayer focus: that believers would see what they already have in God

II. Paul's Foundation: Gratitude and Prayer (Ephesians 1:15-16)

- Paul's thankfulness for their faith (pistis) and love (agapē)
- Faith as bold, full-weighted trust (like driving on frozen lake)
- Love as self-giving, seeking good of others
- Paul's practice: talking to God about people more than talking to people about people

III. The Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom and Revelation (Ephesians 1:17)

- Request for sophia (wisdom) and apokalypsis (revelation)
- Moving from information about God to actually knowing Him
- Not seeking secret information but deeper spiritual perception

IV. Enlightened Hearts (Ephesians 1:18a)

- The "eyes of your heart" (kardia) flooded with light
- Heart as control center: mind, will, and affections
- Spiritual perception versus spiritual busyness
- The need to continually walk in God's light
- Prayer: "Lord, enlighten the eyes of my kardias again"

V. Three Major Realities

A. Reality #1: The Hope of God's Calling (Ephesians 1:18b)

- Hope (elpis): confident expectation rooted in God's promises
- Biblical hope: confidence that God WILL do what is best
- Calling (klēsis): God's effective summons bringing life transformation
- When God calls, His purposed result happens
- Our future is anchored in God's calling
- Hope gives the church steady confidence in uncertain world

B. Reality #2: God's Wealth in His People (Ephesians 1:18c)

- Three key words:
 1. Riches (ploutos): overflowing wealth
 2. Glory (doxa): weight, worth, and beauty of God's character
 3. Inheritance (klēronomia): secured portion, treasured possession
- Believers as God's inheritance displaying His glory
- We carry the very essence and presence of God
- The local church as display of His glory and treasured possession
- The church (ekklēsia) as God's called-out assembly

C. Reality #3: The Power Aimed at You (Ephesians 1:19-23)

- Immeasurable greatness (hyperballon megethos) of God's power
- Four dimensions of power:
 1. Dynamis: inherent, active power
 2. Energeia: power in motion, energy at work
 3. Kratos: manifested might, ruling strength
 4. Ischys: sheer capacity or "muscle"

- Power demonstrated in Christ's resurrection and enthronement
- Christ seated far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion
- Christ as head over all things to the church
- The church as His body, organically connected to Him
- The church as "the fullness of Him who fills all in all"
- Nothing ordinary about the local church
- The church as main stage where Christ's life, love, and authority are displayed

VI. Application: How to Make This Real

1. Pray like Paul to the "Father of glory" for wisdom and revelation
2. Pray for enlightened eyes of the heart
3. Pray to know:
 - The hope of God's calling
 - The riches of His glory in His inheritance
 - The immeasurable greatness of His power toward believers

VII. Conclusion

- Stop living from spiritual exhaustion
- Start living from resurrection power
- Display the risen and reigning Christ to the world