

Saint Pauls Cathedral, Melbourne
Bible Study, Sunday 18th October 2020
THE EPISTLE OF EPHESIANS

A Quick Recap (Ephesians 1:3-14)

Last Sunday, we look at Paul, in one long sentence, describes our position in Christ and God's great love toward us by blessing us with every spiritual blessing through Christ. Paul describes the magnitude of the what God has done for us, and shows us that the purpose of it all is to bring praise to the glory of God. This is our spiritual wealth in Christ.

These blessings are spiritual in nature which we have now. We are adopted into God's family (v.5), redeemed through Christ's blood, lavished with the riches of His grace (v.7-8), made know the mystery of his will (v.9), obtained an inheritance (v.11) and sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (v.13)

This God our Father did it in Christ. "In Christ" and "in Him" appear at least 6 times in these verses, showing how Christ connects us to our blessings. God did all this for the "praise of his glory" – repeated three times in these verses (v.5,12,14). God did all this according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us because we are all do not deserve it. Therefore, we need to live our lives to bring glory to His name in all we do wherever we are.

Whenever you feel discouraged or useless, you should turn to this passage and read it. After reading it you will feel the comfort and peace of the assurance of your relationship with Jesus fill you.

Ephesians 1:15-23

ESV

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 the 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.

NIV

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 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. ¹⁸ 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 his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

First Prayer: for enlightenment (1:15-23)

How did Paul describe the Ephesians believers? What did it result in Paul? (v.15-16)

In verse 17, What is it that Paul ask God the glorious Father to give them? Why?

In verse 18-19a, What is it that Paul ask God the glorious Father to give them? So that they may ... ? (three things)

Paul shift focus in the middle of verse 19 to talk about Christ. What do v.19b-23 teach us about Christ?"

What is one area of your life you struggle to surrender to His complete authority?

``What do you need to do to submit to Him in that area?