



Ephesians

Part 7

Ephesians 1:15-18
Week of April 18, 2021

Before Connect Group

- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:15-23, ESV

Sermon Notes

Your hope in Christ is NOT putting up with a broken world until Christ returns. Your hope is a victory that this world has not seen or known that is already placed in you that is in your call and adoption to be called a child of God.

The Christian community prides itself on hope.

- *The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity--hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory--because at the Father's will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross. (J.I. Packer)*
- *Our righteousness is in Him, and our hope depends, not upon the exercise of grace in us, but upon the fullness of grace and love in Him, and upon His obedience unto death. (John Newton)*
- *Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a 'wish' (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made. (R.C. Sproul)*

We have no problem speaking of hope in the wonderful story of Christ, but many who call themselves Christians have yet to experience the penetrating power and daily filling of hope that claims the foundation of our faith.

Paul's prayer is important in a couple of ways. Paul is praying for believers, not unbelievers. Paul's prayers do not "cease", indicating that our need for the following intercession is ongoing, daily. The main request in His prayer, is that God, the Father of Glory, would supply you with the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. That all your affections would be gathered to praise him daily. 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.

"Hope To Which He Has Called You"

I want to acknowledge that the instinctive response to this verse is a correct one. Namely, that we just read the beautiful opening of this letter, which describes a call and hope that comes only from the blessings from heaven in and through our Lord Jesus Christ. However, I think we need to take a little bit of time to navigate some of the parts of this calling to hope. It is important enough to Paul to pray this over believers as the foundation to the "eyes of our hearts enlightened" and the draw of our intimacy with God. There are three important observations surrounding the understanding of this daily hope that we as Christians should join Paul in praying over ourselves, and others.

Daily Reminder of Your Identity

- Ephesians 1:4-5
- You have been chosen and predestined for adoption.
- This picture of adoption is so powerful because it not only describes the kind of love that God has for us, but it also describes the struggle that we have in believing and resting in that love.
- The struggle to adjust to the rhythm of God's family
 - *Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with*

patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- *Colossians 1:9-10 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*
- *1 Thessalonians 2:12 We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*
- The struggle to take on His name.
 - Because we do not feel worthy, we hold onto our old selves for our own comfort... There is nothing for us in this world.
 - Christ did not do some of the work, he did all the work!
 - The flesh has a hold on you, not because it can compete with Christ, but because you refuse to let go.
 - *Ephesians 2:12-13 Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*
- This knowledge of hope that Paul prays over you is a daily reminder that there is nothing in this world that has claim to you!
- *Ephesians 1:7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight*
- Because of this hope, would you wake up and set the passions of this world aside, the identity of your flesh, and hold firm to the name of Christ given to you in your call of adoption? But your hope is not just in an event that happened, but rather, it is in the consummation of victory!

Daily Assurance of Your Eternal Victory in Christ.

- If you are to have any hope in the power of who you are today, it must rest in the confidence of the victory ahead. This is the foundation of the promised hope to us.
- *Ephesians 1:7-10 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*
- *Colossians 1:3-5 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.*
- *1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- Everything we do is based on our capacity of hope.
- Our hope is surely based on things yet to come.
- *Colossians 3:1-4 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

- There are two major distinctives between the hope that Paul talks about here, that we have in Christ, and the hope that we know in this world.
- The hope we have in Christ is not a chance, but an assured victory
- Colossians 3:1 - he is already seated at the right hand of God,
- Your hope is not only a future desire, it is a current reality!
- Colossians 3:3 - and YOU are already with Him!
- Your hope in Christ is NOT putting up with a broken world until Christ returns. Your hope is a victory that this world has not seen or known that is already placed in you that is in your call and adoption to be called a child of God.

Daily Display of God's Glory In You.

- *Ephesians 1:13-14 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*
- The Spirit of the living God has taken up residence in you. Paul says that this is also the hope that we have.
- *Colossians 1:27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
- Christ in you, is the display of the glory of God to all the earth.
- Christ in you, is cause for boastful confidence in Him alone.
- Christ in you, is the foundation of hope for everyday until we breath our last...

Ephesians 1:15-18 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 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, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,

Your heart today is in need of this Hope. Whether it be a new hope to deliver you from the hopelessness of this World, or it be a reminder of hope to combat the dementia of our flesh. Would you take hold of this hope today?

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- In what ways do you describe hope when you are asked about it?
- How does your identity reveal your hope in Jesus Christ? Who gets to define our identity? Why is this significant?
- What are some of the ways that the world attempts to define our identity apart from Christ? What hope does Christ offer to this?
- How did Jesus secure our eternal victory? Why can we have hope that our victory is in Jesus Christ and not in anything else?
- What does it change in your life to understand that you are the display of God's glory in the earth? How can we better submit to Jesus Christ in all aspects of our life to reveal the glory of God through us?

Challenge For The Week

The hope of Jesus Christ is bigger than ourselves and rescues us from our old self to put us on the foundation of our new self.

- This week, take some time to write down your story of how you came to hope and how God is glorified in your life.
- Pray to God and ask for opportunities to share the hope with someone you know who needs the hope of Christ.