

Episode #2-41 – Ephesians 1 Part 7 - What Those In Christ Need

I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.

II. In Ephesians 1:3-14, the longest sentence in the Bible, God reveals to us all that is true of those of us who are "in Christ" by believing in Him. Now, in verse 15, Paul begins another giant sentence, recording his own prayer in light these things that are true of us. He has heard of the faith and love for the saints of the new believers he is writing to, and he thanks the Lord for these things. He prays that they might know Christ, which is the greatest need we all have.

III. Ephesians 1:15-2:3. Paul's prayer in light of what is true of us "in Christ."

- A. Verse 18. The heart was not the seat of emotions to them, but rather the seat of the innermost being. Their hearts' eyes needed to be enlightened. This was so they would know their expectation related to His calling, and the riches of the glory (significance) of the portion among the saints. We too need to know what our hope and future will be. We have a rich portion indeed, if we will only come to see and understand it!
- B. Verse 19. We need to know His transcendently great power for us who are believing. This is all in accord with the working of the might of His strength. This is great power that is involved! Yet where is this power manifested? In us who believe. It is manifested in the fact that we are believing.
- C. Verse 20. It takes power similar to the power it took to raise Christ from the dead to raise faith in the heart of a corrupt, fallen sinner.
 - 1. Christ is seated on the rights of God.
 - 2. Christ is seated among the super-heavenly seats.
- D. Verse 21. Christ is over every other power, heavenly or earthly. Lists sovereignty, or first rulers; then authority, or delegated powers; then power, from dynamite or inherent power; and then lordship. Every name speaks of reputation based on position. Two eons: this one and the one to come, the eon of the kingdom of God.
- E. Verse 22. Put under His feet means that all are put under His power. He is the source of all things to the ekklesia or the out-called.
- F. Verse 23. His ekklesia His body and fullness. A glorious position!
 - 1. To be His body means to be His substance. Any time anyone becomes something by taking part in what Christ is, that person is part of His body.
 - 2. We are the complement of Christ. A glorious position!
 - 3. How can we be the fullness of the One Who fills all these authorities in all ways? Strange, but wondrously true. Christ deigns to be identified with us!

IV. Conclusion: Paul's prayer for believers today was that we would know Christ. He also wanted us to know our hope, His inheritance, and His great power for us who are believing. We need to know these great things. Praise God that He has revealed them to us through these verses.