

010 - Hope, Riches, Power - Ephesians 1:18-20 - 2014-07-27

Call to Worship: Exodus 15:1-2

Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:3-13

Sermon: "Hope, Riches, Power" Ephesians 1:18-20

Benediction: Exodus 15:13

INTRODUCTION

We praise God, we exalt Him, we glorify Him, we bless Him, because He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus!

He has given us redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ, by which, when He also had worked in us faith in Christ and repentance, we were granted forgiveness of sins.

He has given us, also, an inheritance---a share in all He has, as adopted sons, heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ since we are in Christ.

His giving us these things has been His work, done according to His counsel, of His will. Even when we believed and repented of sin, we did so by the work of the Holy Spirit inside us; it was not our own work to believe and repent, but God's work in us.

Therefore, the apostle of Jesus Christ teaches us to thank God for all His blessings, since they have come to us by His work, by His predestination, by His purpose.

He also teaches us, since God has begun such a good work in us, to pray that He will continue this good work in us, giving us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; that is, that the Holy Spirit will shine light for us, so that the eyes of our understanding may see things about the Lord; that we may know wonderful things about Him.

And that is a quick summary of what we've learned so far in Ephesians chapter one.

We move on, then, today, to the next God-inspired idea, which is, three things mentioned here that it will be good for us to know about God. There are a million wonderful things to know about God Almighty---Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But here the bible mentions three things about God, and teaches us to pray that God will give us knowledge of these three things.

We pray that God will shine light for our hearts, so that we will know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. Hope, Riches, Power.

TEXT

Read the text: Ephesians 1:18-20

BODY

We pray that God will shine light for our hearts, so that we will know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. Hope, Riches, Power.

I. What is the hope of His calling

A. the object of our hope, certainly, is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself

B. but what is it that we hope to have from the Lord Jesus Christ? We hope to have resurrection from the dead unto eternal life.

Romans 8:23-25 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (24) For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? (25) But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY."

C. this is what we hope for, and certainly we must know what we hope for in order to know the hope of His calling, but I think the apostle means the hope itself

1. the bible says that the world has no hope; or, in another sense, nothing to hope in that is sure
2. but we have hope, a sure hope, and the apostle teaches us to pray that we would know this hope

D. APPLICATION: What good is this hope?

1. what good is it to ourselves?
 - it is the ground of joy and of peace
 - it is a motivation for efforts at purity
 - it is a helmet to protect us from the devil's darts

Eph 6 says "helmet of salvation"

1 Thess explains "helmet the hope of salvation"

it is the restrainer of our grief

2. what good is it to others?

it is what others, who have no hope, notice and ask about

E. APPLICATION: how do we get it? how do we come to know it?

We know it through the scriptures, understood and then lived out

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

II. What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

A. see in the Old Testament stories

Job 1:1-3 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. (2) And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. (3) Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

Job 42:12-13 Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. (13) He also had seven sons and three daughters.

1 Kings 4:22-23 Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal, (23) ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl.

1 Kings 10:14 The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold,

1 Kings 10:21 All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.

B. see in the description of the new Jerusalem

Revelation 21:18-21 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. (19) The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. (21)

The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

C. understand what the riches of God are that are symbolized by gold and gems

- A. goodness
- B. glory
- C. wisdom
- D. grace
- E. kindness

D. APPLICATION

1. this keeps suffering for Christ in this life in perspective

Philippians 3:7-11 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. (8) Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; (10) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, (11) if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

2. this gives us wisdom in dealing with money and other earthly riches

Philippians 4:15-19 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. (16) For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. (17) Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. (18) Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. (19) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

III. what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe

A. God is infinite in power; all-powerful; omnipotent

- 1. He showed this in creation
- 2. He showed this in such acts of redemption as parting the Red Sea

B. God exerts that great power in us who believe

- 1. in producing faith in us
 - a. making flesh from a rock
 - b. causing someone to be born a second time
 - c. making someone into a new creature

- d. giving life to the dead
- 2. in keeping us in that faith
 - a. despite the efforts of Satan
 - b. despite the influence of the world
 - c. despite the tendencies of our own flesh
- 3. in raising us up at the last day and keeping us saved for all eternity
- C. This is the same power which He worked in Christ
 - 1. when He raised Christ from the dead
 - 2. when He seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places

APPLICATION: What use is this to us?

- 1. endurance, perseverance
- 2. resistance to temptation
- 3. accomplishing of what seems too difficult; confidence to try

CONCLUSION

We pray that God will shine light for our hearts, so that we will know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe. Hope, Riches, Power.

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Poole:

put forth in the whole of our salvation from first to last
in begetting faith in us
in preserving that faith
in raising us up at last and finally saving us

Acts 2:22-24 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- (23) Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; (24) whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

according to the working of His mighty power
which He worked in Christ when He
raised Him from the dead
seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly