

EPHESIANS

Lesson 2 - Ephesians 1:7-23

This week we continue to look closer into the many blessings bestowed upon us by our gracious and loving Lord. These verses tell of our inheritance in Him and the guarantee of that inheritance. We will also read the prayer of Paul for the Ephesians, praying that they might understand all that God has done for them. Remember, this prayer is also for you!

Pray that the Lord will use this lesson to open your heart and mind to all He has made available to you by His grace.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse is Colossians 1:27.

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Read Ephesians 1:7-12.

1. We see the words *in Him* again in this section.

a. From Ephesians 1:7, what do we have *in Him*?

b. Define *redemption*.

c. What was the cost of our redemption? Read 1 Peter 1:18-19.

2. Ephesians 1:9-10 tells us about the *mystery of His will*. This mystery is not something hidden, but something yet to be revealed, but now it has been revealed.

a. What is revealed about this *mystery* in verse 10?

b. In these verses you see *in Himself*, *in Christ* and *in Him*. This is the key to the revealed meaning of the *mystery*. Underline each one in your Bible.

3. What have we obtained *in Him* according to Ephesians 1:11?

4. Ephesians 1:12-14 describes those who obtain this, they are believers in Christ.

a. Describe the steps mentioned in these verses for salvation.

b. Who is the guarantee of our inheritance?

Read Ephesians 1:15-17.

1. In Ephesians 1:15-16 we learn a little more about the Ephesians.

a. What had he heard about the Ephesians?

b. What was Paul's response to this?

The next few verses give us a beautiful example of praying for someone who is doing well, not just those in the midst of struggle, because there is always a place for us to grow in understanding more of Him. Now let's see what Paul prayed for these Ephesians.

2. Consider Ephesians 1:17. What specific thing(s) did Paul pray for the Ephesians in this verse?

a. What does John 16:13 reveal about this?

b. What does 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 add to our understanding of this?

3. What desire for his own life, from Philippians 3:10, does Paul now pray for the Ephesians?

Read Ephesians 1:18.

Below is a list of the three things Paul specifically prayed for in Ephesians 1:18. We will look closer at each one.

1. that *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened*
2. that you may know *what is the hope of His calling*
3. that you may know *what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*

⇒ “...*that the eyes of your understanding being enlightened...*”

1. Define *understanding*.

2. Some versions translate this as “...*the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...*” Consider what the *heart* represents in scripture. How does this add to the meaning of the verse?

3. An example of your understanding being enlightened to spiritual things can be found in 2 Kings 6:15-17. How does this encourage you?

⇒ “...*that you may know what is the hope of His calling...*”

Strong’s concordance gives the following definition for *calling* in this verse: *the divine invitation to embrace salvation in the kingdom of God*

1. Write a definition for *hope*.

a. What does “*the hope of His calling*” mean to you?

b. How does Jeremiah 29:11 add to this?

⇒ “...*that you may know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...*”

1. Remember what it cost Jesus to gain this inheritance. Consider Hebrews 12:2. Why did He endure the cross and where is He now?

Malcolm Wild explains: “The joy set before Him is seeing you come into salvation. You are His inheritance.”

2. What does it mean to you that you are so precious to Him, *the riches of the glory of His inheritance*?

3. Stop now and read Ephesians 1:17-18 again and think about the meaning. Write any thoughts you have about these verses below.

Read Ephesians 1:19-23.

1. Paul continues his prayer for the Ephesians in Ephesians 1:19.
...that you may know what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...

a. Read Job 26:7-14 and share your thoughts on the mighty power of God.

b. Now think about His power toward us. What are some ways you see that power working in your life?

2. As amazing as the description of God’s power in Job is, there is more!

a. How was *the exceeding greatness of His power* demonstrated in Ephesians 1:20?

b. What does Romans 8:11 tell you about this power?

c. Consider what it means that this power dwells in you. How does this effect your life?

3. Ephesians 1:21-22 describes the place of power that Christ sits in.

a. What does verse 21 say He is *above*?

b. What does verse 22 say He is *head over*?

c. Underline the word *all* every time you see it in these verses, and remind yourself what *all* means by writing the definition below.

4. Look to see what is said in Ephesians 1:23 about the church.

a. How is the church described?

b. What does this mean that He is the *head* over the body?

In closing...

1. This chapter has the words *in Him*, *in Christ* or a phrase of the same meaning so many times that it makes us very aware of its importance. Think back over the lesson and list some things that you have *in Him*.

2. We have seen that the power of God is available to all believers, yet many do not experience His power in their daily lives.

a. What are some things that could affect this?

b. Is there a place in your life right now where you need the power of God to overcome? It could be to forgive, a bad habit, bitterness, temptation of any kind, help in putting off something of the world you have allowed into your life... and so many more places where we need His power. Stop now and ask Him to help you in whatever area it is in your life.

Memory Verse

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Colossians 1:27