



MZBMP

Sunday Morning Service Study Notes
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TITLE:

Ephesians 1:18-20 - That Ye May Know God's Calling, Inheritance, and Power

INTRODUCTION:

- Ephesians 1:18-20 is part of the second section of the doctrinal content.
- This section contains one of the two prayers of Paul to the Ephesians.
- After hearing the faith and love of the Ephesians, Paul prayed to God to give the Ephesians the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God, which would result in enlightenment of their understanding so that they may know three specific things.

THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING

- One of the three end goals of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is for them to know the hope of God's calling.
- The "hope of His calling" means the expectation of His invitation.
- God's calling is mentioned in Eph. 1:4-5.
- God's calling refers to soteriological calling (calling for salvation).
 - o God is calling today. God has an invitation to all men.
 - Matthew 11:28-30 - Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- God's calling gives hope.
 - o It is the anticipation of truth not yet realized.
 - o False salvation provides no hope, or in other cases, it gives false hope.
 - E.g. Sacrament, good works, purgatory.
 - o Jesus Christ is our hope which is likened to an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. Compare Heb. 6:19.
 - o We have:
 - The blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Tit. 2:13).
 - The hope of resurrection (1 Cor. 15:52-54). This corruptible must put on incorruption. This mortal must put on immortality.
 - The hope of being with Jesus Christ (Joh. 14:1-3). Jesus said, "that where I am, there ye may be also."
 - o But you need to know it.
- Before we got saved, we didn't have any hope. Compare Eph. 2:12.
- Now, we are called in one hope of His calling. Compare Eph. 4:4.
- Do you know the hope of His calling?
 - o Then, why do you worry about tomorrow?
- We must walk worthy or appropriately of the vocation of calling wherewith we are called. Compare Eph. 4:1.

THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS

- Another end goal of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is for them to know the riches of the glory of God's inheritance in the saints.
- God's inheritance is mentioned in Eph. 1:11, 14.
- God's inheritance is not only glorious but richly glorious.
 - o Nothing in this world can be compared with His inheritance.
 - E.g. Bill Gates' 130 million dollar mansion: His house has an automated high-tech sensor system that is used to monitor every room's climate, lighting, and other key features to make it comfortable for the residents. It has a 60-foot (18 m) swimming pool with an underwater music system, a 2,500-square-foot (230 m²) gym, and a 1,000-square-foot (93 m²) dining room. There are 7 bedrooms, 6 kitchens, and 24 bathrooms. There is also a sauna, steam room, and separate locker rooms.
 - Bill Gates's inheritance is nothing compared to the inheritance that God prepared for His sons.

- God's inheritance would be shared "in the saints" or with the saints.
 - o We are joint-heirs with Christ, who is appointed Heir of all things (Heb. 1:2; Rom. 8:17).
 - The inheritance is to dwell with Christ in glory in heaven (Col. 3:4).
 - The inheritance is to rule and reign with Christ in His millennial kingdom (Luk. 22:28-30) as kings, priests, and judges.
 - The inheritance is to be with Christ in the New Jerusalem for all eternity (Rev. 21).
 - o But you need to know it.
- God's inheritance is the unsearchable (cannot be searched out, cannot be comprehended) riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8).
- There's no end of knowing these things. We should continually grow in the knowledge of these things. We should continually meditate on these things.

THE EXCEEDING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TO US-WARD

- The last goal of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is for them to know the exceeding greatness of God's power to believers.
- He described this power in the third section of the doctrinal content of his epistle (2:1-10).
- His power is exceeding or excelling in greatness or magnitude. His power is for the believers.
 - o What is this power?
 - Who was Paul before he got saved? A blasphemer, a persecutor, an injurious or insulter (1 Tim. 1:3).
 - Who were the Ephesians before they got saved? Worshipers of Diana, people who were involved in sorcery, exorcisms, and black magic (Acts 19).
 - Who were we before we got saved? Dead in trespasses and sins, we walked with the devil, children of disobedience, lustful in our manner of life (Eph. 2:1-3).
 - Can these kinds of people be saved and have a change in their lives?
 - o This is His power to us-ward: Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
 - o But you need to know it.
- How did God work or operate His power to us?
 - o This power is according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when God raised Him from the dead, set Him at His own right hand, and put all things under His feet (1:20-23).
 - o The basis of God's power to us is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - o Similarities (Christ / believers):
 - "he raised him from the dead" - 1:20 / "hath quicked us together with Christ" - 2:1, 5
 - "set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" - 1:20 / "made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" - 2:6
 - o Compare Col. 2:10-13.
 - o Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
 - The word "workmanship" (ποίημα - poiēma) means a thing that is made (Rom. 1:20), a product, or a masterpiece.
 - We are created in Christ Jesus.
 - That we should walk in good works.

CHALLENGE:

- Do you know these three things?
- How is your relationship with the Bible?
- Do you pray like this?
- Do you pray according to the will of God?