

Ephesians 1:15-21

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,
¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:
¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

“God our Father” Ephesians 1:17

INTRO:

On Father’s Day we think about fathers. It is, therefore appropriate to look at the greatest father of all – God the Father. In **Ephesians 1:17** we find that God is described as *“the Father of Glory.”*

I. The Father of Glory - Ephesians 1:17

II. What Is Glory?

III. What do we do with this?

I. The Father of Glory - Ephesians 1:17

A. In **Ephesians 1:17**, we find Paul making a specific prayer request for the Ephesians. Before detailing the request, he reminds the Ephesians of the God to whom he prayed.

Ephesians 1:15-17 reads

“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.”

B. We would benefit to learn the habit of reminding ourselves of the God we are addressing. He is the infinite, eternal God who is all powerful and all-knowing.

II. What Is Glory?

A. The source of the wisdom and illumination Paul interceded for the Ephesians is none other than the Father of Glory. This makes us ask the question, what does this mean, and why does Paul describe God as glorious?

1. The concept of glory is not an easy one to define or quantify. The chief Hebrew word for glory is *Kabod* and its essential meaning is “*weight or heaviness*.” In the days of both the Old Testament and the New Testament, the value of money was determined by its weight. The word shekel is a measurement of weight. So, the weight of something spoke of its essential value or worth.

2. When *kabod* is used of men it speaks of their glory in terms of *wealth, power, position, or character*. For example, when Joseph revealed himself to his brothers in Egypt, he gave them instructions as to what they should say to Jacob. We read in **Genesis 45:13**, ***“So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here.”***

3. When this word is applied to God, we find that it speaks of much more than just possessions, power, position, and character. *Kabod* speaks of God’s holiness, beauty, and perfections. All that makes God, God, is His glory.

4. Remember the request Moses made in **Exodus 33:18**?

“Please show me Your glory.”

Moses wanted to see God as He really is. Sadly, that was not possible. God told him in response,

“Then [the LORD] said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’ But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’ And the Lord said, ‘Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.’”

5. God’s glory is in a sense God’s face. While we cannot now look fully into His wonderful face, there is a part of His glory we can see and still live. It is that part described as His back. I do not pretend to know what that means. But it does mean that God is so altogether glorious, that if we were to behold all God’s glory we would perish!

B. In the New Testament the chief word for glory is *doxa*. *Doxa* means “*brightness, brilliance, splendor, radiance*.” *Doxa* also denotes giving praise or recognition to someone or something.

1. Paul used this word five times in **Ephesians 1**. In **1:3-6** we read how the salvation we receive in Christ alone demonstrates His glorious grace.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”

This is the great motive for our Great Heavenly Father saving us. He saved us in order that His majestic grace might be glorified. He did it so we might see how perfect and wonderful His grace is!

2. In **Ephesians 1:11-12** we read how God did all the wonderful things involved in our salvation for one reason.

“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”

God did this so that we by our very existence might cause others to praise God for His goodness and grace to us. This is again a recognition of the outworking of God’s perfections and attributes on our behalf. God’s wisdom is seen in His great plan for saving us. He worked out every detail so that we would hear the Gospel. Then He worked in us so we would receive the Christ of the Gospel. Everything in our lives was done as everything is always done, according to His purpose.

3. We read in **verses 13 and 14** how this salvation God worked out for us is secure.

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Lest we think we do not have a part in this unfolding drama of redemption, the Apostle Paul added the **12th verse** to underline our human responsibility in this process. We have to believe. And when we believe, God puts His seal on us. He gives us a down payment that guarantees our claim on the eternal blessings promised us in Christ. Who is this seal and who is this earnest? The Holy Spirit of God, who lives in us is our seal and our guarantee. This again is so that God’s glory might be seen and praised. We catch a glimpse of the wonder of Who our God is in these things that He has done for us. We do Him a colossal disservice when we do not acknowledge what He has done!

4. The fourth time God’s glory is mentioned is in our text, **verse 17**. This verse describes how our God, who has done so much for us, is our heavenly Father. He is a Father who is always displaying who He is in His dealings with us. He is the Father of glory who shows us His grace, longsuffering, holiness, and love in the answering of our prayers too.

5. The last reference to God’s glory in **Ephesians 1** is **verses 18-19**

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.”

One aspect of God’s plan is the overflowing glory of God’s own inheritance in the saints. Paul worked to make us understand what God’s future plans for us are, how we are to be His in a unique way. How we, His converted saints, will have a special eternal relationship with Him. This is what **Ephesians 5:25-27** is all about.

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

III. What do we do with this?

A. What do we do with this understanding and knowledge about our God Who is the Father of Glory? First, we must recognize all that God has done in calling us into this relationship in which we call Him Father, is all of grace. We did not deserve the least of His favors. Still, God the Father sent forth His Son to be born a babe in Bethlehem, to live a sinless life, and

to die in our place on the cross. He did all of this so that we might be saved and so that He might be glorified.

B. There is a warning here also. Sometimes we are so amazed at God's selfless love for us that we get the mistaken idea that all of this was about us. But it is not about us.

1. Remember what the LORD said to Israel in **Deuteronomy 7:7-8?**

“The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

2. Did God love us with a love that we will never understand? Yes, He did.

Did He give His Son, His only Son whom He loved, for us? Yes, He did. Yet, it wasn't just to save us. It was also to demonstrate His glorious character and being. He did it so in order that we who have first trusted in Christ might give praise to the glory of His grace! In the end, He saved us so that we might glorify Him!

C. Finally, in view of this, we need to do what the Apostle Paul commanded the Corinthians to do.

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

We should aim our lives at glorifying our Father of glory!

Hymn #292 God of Grace and God of Glory