

“Blessing “Enlightenment”

- **Day One. Hope**

Read Ephesians 1:18; 1Peter 3:15; Colossians 1:27; Romans 15:13

Paul prays that you may know “the hope to which he has called you.” How would you explain your hope for the future and the basis for it to another person? How does the experience of “Christ in you” give you hope? How does hope for the future contribute to joy and peace now?

Pray. Ask God to “enlighten your heart” so that you can better understand the “hope to which he has called you.”

- **Day Two. Riches**

Read Ephesians 1:18, 7; Colossians 1:27; Romans 2:4; Philippians 4:19; 2Corinthians 8:9; Romans 11:33; 1Corinthians 2:9

Paul prays that you may know “the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.” Describe how redemption and forgiveness are “riches.” How does “Christ in you” make you rich? How do the riches of God lead to repentance and meet our needs? Write a description of your “glorious inheritance” as if in a will.

Pray. Thank Jesus for becoming poor that you might become rich. Ask God to “enlighten your heart” so that you can better understand the “the riches of your glorious inheritance.”

- **Day Three. Power**

Read Ephesians 1:19-23; 3:16, 20; 6:10; 1Corinthians 6:14; 15:43; 2Timothy 1:7; 2Corinthians 10:4; Romans 1:16

Paul prays that you may know “his incomparably great power for us who believe.” What sense of God’s power do you get from vs 20-23? Describe the power of resurrection. How has God brought dead things back to life for you? Describe how power overcomes internal and external threats to our fulfillment. Describe the “power” of the gospel.

Pray. Ask God to “enlighten your heart” so that you can better understand “his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

Spiritual Blessings

Immeasurably More #1 • Ephesians 1

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory...

ὑπέρ | hyper | over, above, more | cp. Lat. *super*, German *über*
ἐκ | ek | out of, from

(ESV) “above and beyond”

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ancient Ephesus

... To the saints in Ephesus (1:1)

Physical Setting

Located on eastern side of the Aegean Sea
Mouth of the Cayster River
Between Mt Pion and Mt Corressus
Artificial harbor
Harbor Street, Marble Street, Curetes Street

Cultural significance

Center of Religion (Artemis Temple)
Center of Commerce (Agora)
Center of Learning (Celsus Library)
Center of Culture (Great Theater)
Center of Wealth (Terrace Houses)
Center of Promiscuity (Ad)

Biblical Events

Aquila & Pricilla (Acts 18:18-19)
Apollos (Acts 18:23-28)
Holy Spirit comes (Acts 19:1-7)
Paul teaches (Acts 19:8-10)
Sons of Sceva (Acts 19:11-22)
Silversmith uprising (Acts 19:23-41)

Spiritual Blessings

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

1. Chosen by God (Planned)

Ephesians 1:4-6 (NIV) ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — ⁶ to the *praise of his glorious grace*, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:11-14 (NIV) ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the *praise of his glory*. Deuteronomy 29:29

When: Before the creation of the world (vs. 4)
How: His will: purpose, plan, pleasure (vs. 5, 9, 11)
Why: To the praise of his glory (vs. 6,12,14)
What: “to be ...” (vs. 4, 5)

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 (NIV) ⁷ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers...

Deuteronomy 9:6

2. Redeemed by Christ (Executed)

Ephesians 1:7-10 (NIV) ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all

things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Redemption | Forgiveness | Riches | Mystery

3. Marked with the Holy Spirit (Secured)

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV) ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the *praise of his glory*.

A Prayer for Blessing

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV) ¹⁵ I For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has called you, the **riches** of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great **power** for us who believe.

Spirit of wisdom and revelation – Know him better
Eyes of your heart enlightened – Know hope, riches, power

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰ which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.