



Sermon Notes: July 5, 2015

Revelation

5 of 14 from the teaching series "The Messiah's Community"
Ephesians 1:15-23 • Pastor Paul Bradford

Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 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. I pray 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 his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Who is our God?

- *The God of our Lord Jesus Christ* - a personal God who identifies himself as the God of those he is in covenant relationship with (God of Abraham, God of Israel, etc.)
- *The glorious Father* - the Father of Jesus and our Father; "glory" denotes that which makes God impressive - his power, beauty, goodness, radiance. *Exodus 40:34ff* - God's glory filled the tabernacle as a kind of radiant substance from which the fire came that consumed the sacrifice; *Exodus 24:15ff* - God's glory was a devouring fire on Mount Sinai, and Moses' face was radiant after speaking with God.

What is God's desire for us?

- When we find an inspired prayer in the Bible, we know it's God's will for us. *1 John 5:14* - we can ask with full confidence and know that he hears us.
- *may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation* - this verse is the only request. The rest of the passage is the reason (we'll discuss next week).
- *the Spirit* - the Holy Spirit; only he can give revelation; available to all believers. *1 Corinthians 2:10-16*
- *wisdom and revelation* - the work of the Holy Spirit enlightening us - opening our spiritual eyes to see. Paul says *I keep asking*, and so should we!
- *wisdom* - insight into the true nature of things, a deeper understanding into God and his ways.
- *revelation* - to unveil, to disclose something previously hidden - something unveiled by God that cannot be discovered by human investigation - a direct personal experience that brings illumination and understanding - like the direct personal knowledge of another person, which includes intellectual knowledge, but is *more* than information. It's like the difference between reading a book about a person and meeting that person, spending time with them, and getting to know their heart, their thoughts, and their dreams. Paul is praying for us to receive a personal experience of God himself! Not just knowing *about* him, but knowing him directly! Not just head knowledge, but a revelation of the person of God.
- *so that you may know him better* - personal knowledge rather than abstract knowledge.

Our Response

Take time to ask the Father for the Spirit's wisdom and revelation – then expect to receive!

- Paul isn't praying that we receive something from God, he's praying that we see what we've received.
- Without insight and revelation *from the Spirit* we are spiritually blind. When, through the Spirit, we have a personal experience of the Father - his love, glory, and goodness - we will be filled with love and wonder; our lives will be transformed. We know this is God's will for all believers, since Paul prayed this prayer for us. So, commit to yourself, "I will take time to ask the Father for the Spirit's wisdom and revelation - then I will expect to receive!"