



Sermon Notes: July 12, 2015

# Power, Riches, & Glory

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

## Paul's Prayer for Believers - Ephesians 1:15-23

*For this reason, [the reason: that God has chosen/adopted/redeemed them (v.3-14), which is confirmed by their faith & love] ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people,*

*Paul's response: I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.*

*What is Paul praying? 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.*

*On the basis of what truth?*

*A. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened*

*Why does he want them to receive this wisdom and revelation?*

*B. in order that you may know*

- 1. the hope to which he has called you,*
- 2. the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*
- 3. and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

*What is that power?*

*a. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when*

- (1) he raised Christ from the dead*
- (2) 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.*
- (3) And God placed all things under his feet*
- (4) and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,*

*Who is the church?*

*(a) which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

## Enlightened Eyes

- verse 18: *since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened* (New English Translation) - "having" is the Greek perfect tense - past action with ongoing consequences - their eyes have been enlightened - that happened when they first believed
- God has awakened us - we now have eyes to see - but we are still dependent on the Spirit to see
- *in order that you may know* - we have the resources we need - Paul is praying that we see what we've already received

## Security

- *in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you*
- hope = certainty - "Hope for the believer is not the world's wishful thinking, but the absolute certainty that God will make true what he has promised." (Harold W. Hoehner, Ephesians, p.265).

- God has chosen you, adopted you, redeemed you, and predestined you to be conformed to the image of his Son, bringing glory to him forever. Because of this calling you know God is at work in your life, now and forever. Rest in the hope of your calling, in God's work in your life.

### **Significance**

- *in order that you may know...the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people*
- You are God's prized possession! His glorious inheritance! His wealth! And you are to make him look good, to bring him glory, to show his good image to the world. See the wealth of all you are in Christ! How valuable you are to God! And the treasure you can be to the world as you are Christ's hand, feet, & voice to others.

### **Strength**

- *in order that you may know...his incomparably great power for us who believe*
- Know the amazing power of God available to us.

### **Faith & Prayer**

- these things are received (or "released", since we already have them) through faith and prayer

### **Our Response**

Receive through faith & prayer the security, significance, & strength that is yours in Christ!