

“And There You Have It”

Ephesians 1:15-23

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“For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love 6 toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

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19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that 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 rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

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2 Problems This Passage Poses for Us:

- ★ In our culture and experience, we more readily emphasize and seek the material over the spiritual.
- ★ We tend to ask God for MORE instead of asking for understanding, wisdom and insight into all He has ALREADY given.

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This Passage of Scripture Teaches The Opposite:

- 1. In none of Paul's prayers from prison does he request material things for the people.**
- 2. His emphasis is on spiritual perception and real Christian character.**
- 3. He does not ask God to give them what they do not have, but rather prays that God will reveal to them what they already have.**

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Verses 15-17

★ Paul prays that the Spirit they have already received will be experienced in granting these things.

★ The purpose of the request is not for special information, but deeper perception and knowledge of God himself. Wisdom, illumination and revelation were indeed the most typical gifts Jews expected from the Spirit. Power is mentioned much more rarely.

★ “knowledge” Epignōsei- This word includes having an intimate awareness of God’s character and will. (v. 17)

★ It is the supremacy of Christ that is thread that holds our identity together.

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Verses 18-19

- ★ Having spiritual wisdom and insight is not a matter of intelligence but the heart. It must be opened by God.
- ★ We should esteem that which is spiritual as a greater treasure than the material.
- ★ Satan tries to get us by the senses and passions, Christ by the understanding.
- ★ “hope” is “assurance for the future” not wishful thinking.

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★ God deals with us on the basis of our future, not our past.

★ Diana was regarded as queen over both the heavenly powers, including the potent zodiacal powers. And thus the Ephesians came from a strong background of magical beliefs. This may have eroded their confidence in the power of God and caused spiritual conflict.

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The accumulation of words for power under scores the magnitude of God's Power in Your Life:

- ★“POWER”- δύναμεις, (dunamis)-“dynamic and explosive”
- ★“WORKING”- ἐνέργειαν-(energeian)- “energetic power”
- ★“GREAT” κράτους-(kratous)- “power that overcomes resistance” (only used of God)
- ★“MIGHT” ἰσχύος-(ichyos)

This is the kind of power HE already has given!

In.



THE SANCTUARY

In.