

Strengthened by God's Word

Ephesians 1:15-23

"The Importance of Knowing God" – February 13, 2022



Introduction

We are all sinful, fallen human beings. Just like Paul, we are dead in our sins. We live in darkness. But just like Paul, by God's mercy, our spirit can be resurrected. Paul was saved, set apart and sent out to spread the Gospel. Paul writes this letter while in prison to encourage the Ephesians to grow in godliness.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. Give Thanks Vs. 15 – 16a
2. Ask God to know God. Vs. 16b - 23

Read & Discuss

1) Read 1:15-16a

To see what "this reason" (Vs. 15) is referring to, we can look back to vs. 3-14. God chose us from the foundation of the world. Why? – "to the praise of His glorious grace." ([Eph. 1:6](#)) This should lead us to humble praise for what He has done for us.

Paul had heard of their faith and their love for one another. He was overjoyed by it and gave thanks for it. To follow Jesus means we love each other. This makes our faith visible. The Ephesians were exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit. ([Gal. 5:22-23](#)) Their love was shown in practical ways. ([Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35](#))

Faith and love go hand in hand for the Christian. ([John 13:35](#))

Are you giving thanks for what God is doing in your fellow believers? What are some good things that you see God doing in the lives of fellow believers? What kind of fruit is the Spirit producing in you?

Additional Reading: *John 15; Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4:7-21*

2) Read 1:16b-23

Paul wants the Ephesians (and us) to know God more. This is an intimate, relational type of knowing. He wants believers to keep on growing in the knowledge of the treasures of God as God reveals Himself to them. The eyes of our heart need to be open. ([Matthew 6:22; 2 Corinthians 4:6](#)) God is the giver of life and light.

Three things Paul wants us to know vs 18-19

- what is the hope to which he has called you
- what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints
- what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe

God has chosen us before the foundation of the world. ([Eph. 1:3](#)) We are God's treasure. He has lavished His grace on us. ([Eph. 1:7-8](#)) We can rest in God's grace and love. He has given us power that helps us walk in the light on a daily basis, fight temptation, love each other, share the gospel, etc. We need to

grasp this power. This power is for you, and it is for the church. Jesus is the head of the church, and the church is His bride. It is through the church that the “manifold wisdom of God” is shown. ([Eph. 3:10](#))

What are some things that you can begin to do to help you know God better? Do you see yourself as God's treasure? Have you ever second-guessed God's love for you? What are the evidences of God's power in your life? Are you wondering if you have the power to make it to the end?

Additional Reading: Matthew 16:18-19; Colossians 1:18

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Genesis 3:8-24 “Paradise Lost”
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