

# Sermon Notes

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## To Know Him.

### *Ephesians 1*

Knowing God – the greatest and most powerful influence upon our lives.

The power of our salvation.

As Paul writes to the Ephesians, in these first few verses he tells us three things about our salvation: -

- **What we are.**
- **What we have.**
- **What we know.**

1 We are:           **Blessed (v.3),**  
                          **Chosen (v.4),**  
                          **Adopted (v.5),**  
                          **Sealed (v.13).**

2 We have:           **Grace (v.6),**  
                          **Redemption, wisdom and understanding (v. 7 – 8).**

3 We know:           **God's ultimate plan for Heaven and earth (v.10).**

It is so easy for us to lose sight of these amazing truths.

1. **Blessed** with every spiritual blessing **v.3** the word blessed is the Greek word - eulogeo - meaning (to be spoken well of) with every spiritual blessing - eulogia – (eulogy)  
Not makarios meaning happy as found in **Matthew: 5**  
We need to also note that in **Romans: 12:14** the same word eulogeo is used.
2. **Chosen** before the creation of the world **v.4.**
3. **Adopted** as His sons through Jesus Christ **v.5** the placing of a Son (the word is used in the same way as we understand adoption).
4. **Sealed** with the Holy Spirit – the deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. **V13.**
5. **Grace** is freely given (**v.6**).
6. **Redemption** – forgiveness of sins – lavishly given.
7. **Wisdom & understanding (v.7 – 8).**
8. **Made known** to us the ultimate fulfillment of everything in Heaven and earth, under the Lordship of Christ. (**v.9 – 11**).

## ***Ephesians 1:15 – 23***

Having encouraged the Church in Ephesus Paul now turns his attention to how he prays for the Church.

**V15** For this reason (because of what he has just said about what we are, have and know).

**V16** He never stops giving thanks for them and praying for them.

What an amazing prayer He prays.

There is something we can learn from this. How would it be if we prayed prayers like this for each other all the time, as Paul says he does for them? What a difference it would make to you, if one person prayed like it every day? What impact do you think it would make on your life?

So what is this first of two prayers Paul prays for this Church?

**V17** I keep asking the Father, Son and Holy Spirit may give you.  
the/a Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know  
(word Know here means to have full discernment) Him

**v18** I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.

Eyes of the heart, if we have a hard heart then we can not see or hear the word of God both spoken and written.

If the eyes and the ears of the heart are soft and open to God, then we will know what He is saying.

**Isaiah 6:9-10** the people's hearts are dull and their eyes and ears are closed.

**Matthew 13:9-17** Jesus teaches the disciples about calloused hearts (word calloused here means to stupefy, to make thick).

**Mark 8:15 – 21** Jesus teaches that the heard heart will not receive the truth.

**Acts 28:27** closes with the importance of a hearing and seeing heart.

### Examples of hard hearts: -

- Pharaoh ***Exodus 4***
- The Pharisees **Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.**
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### Cause of hard hearts: -

- Unbelief.
- Worldly cares.
- Legalism.
- Fear.
- Unforgiveness.

### What will our open eyes see: -

- Our hope - (elpis) to anticipate with pleasure ***v18***
- Our inheritance ***v18***
- His great power ***v19***
- His resurrection life ***v20***
- His permanence ***v21 & 22***
- His overflowing fullness ***v23***

We can pray this as a prayer for ourselves and one another.

Father in heaven, give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we may know you better. That the eyes of our hearts may be open, that we would know the hope to which you have called us and the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. That we may know your incomparably great power for us who believe.

Pray this prayer for others too, by placing there name in the blank spaces.

Father in heaven give ..... a spirit of wisdom and revelation that he/she may know you better. That the eyes of ..... heart may be open, that ..... would know the hope to which you have called .... and the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. that ... may know your incomparably great power for ... who believes, I ask this in the name which is above every name, the name of Jesus.