

# WHAT DO THE EYES OF YOUR HEART SEE TODAY?

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

*July 23, 2023*

*Psalm 119:18 – Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.*

## Introduction

### I. Two people together in an art museum →

- II. Because of all the identity truths noted in Eph. 1:3-14, Paul is motivated to pray for the Ephesian church (see vs. 15-23). “For this reason...” Paul prays with confidence because he knows who he is in Christ, and he knows the infinite capacity that God has to be able to answer his prayers.

**Key Point:** Because the risen Christ reigns \_\_\_\_\_ above every other name and can mightily work within man's heart, Paul prays for believers that they would understand and see the \_\_\_\_\_ of their salvation.

## Paul's Response in Prayer → Ephesians 1:15-23

### I. A Brief Outline

- A. In verses 15-17, Paul generally prays for wisdom and \_\_\_\_\_ for the Ephesian church
- B. In verses 18-19a, Paul drills into the specific heart of this prayer that the Ephesian church would have the eyes of faith to know the \_\_\_\_\_ of their new lives in Christ
- C. In verses 19b-23, Paul grounds his requests in accordance with the strength of the \_\_\_\_\_ works of Jesus Christ.

### II. Paul's General Prayer Request (Eph. 1:15-17)

- A. God, grant to them “the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him” (see Jer. 9:23-24)
- 1) Fearing God never means that a believer is to be \_\_\_\_\_ of Him. It means having a reverence for Him that greatly impacts the way we live. It means respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshiping Him in \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 9:10)
- B. We must \_\_\_\_\_ the wisdom of the Spirit versus the wisdom of this world (see I Cor. 2:6-14).
- C. Remember the command to lean not on your own \_\_\_\_\_ but to trust in the Lord (Prov. 3:5-6).

### III. Paul's Specific Prayer Request (Eph. 1:18-19a)

- A. Enlightened (*phōtizō*) → to shine, illumine, or render evident
- 1) This prayer is for believers, so this light is referring to our \_\_\_\_\_ (see Rom. 13:12-14)
- 2) Remember the Scriptural commands to hold in balance to “fix our eyes on Jesus” (Heb. 12:2) but to “live by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7). An enlightened heart can see the work of Christ for what it truly is and will respond in \_\_\_\_\_.

B. The enlightened heart will allow the believer to know three things.

1) ***The HOPE of His calling***

i. This pertains to the believer's \_\_\_\_\_ when he was called to believe...

- That the Lord Jesus will shepherd his spirit and he shall not want
- That his soul possesses a perfect justification
- That his mortal body will one day put on immortality

ii. And for the unbeliever who rejects this hope that could be his →

2) ***The RICHES of His glorious inheritance in the saints***

i. This pertains to the \_\_\_\_\_ resurrection of all believers when God will inherit those whom he has purchased as his own.

ii. The importance of distinguishing \_\_\_\_\_ inheritance is in view in verse 18.

- QUESTION: How can God make riches for himself out of poor men and women whose lives are wrecked by the fall? → Jesus spent a lifetime of \_\_\_\_\_ in pursuit of us. He knows what the saints \_\_\_\_\_ him.

3) ***The immeasurable GREATNESS of His power toward us who believe***

i. This pertains to the \_\_\_\_\_ time...that your life today would be impacted through true knowledge and abiding faith in God's \_\_\_\_\_.

ii. Do not believe the lies of the enemy about your inadequacy. That is not true of who you are in Christ. With God all things are possible. His power knows no limit.

IV. **The Basis Upon Which Paul's Prayer Stands → The Power of God (Eph. 1:19b-23)**

A. These prayer requests are legitimate because they are according to the strength of God's might as seen in three powerful displays.

- 1) First display in the \_\_\_\_\_ → His resurrection and His exaltation
- 2) Second display in the \_\_\_\_\_ → His dominion over all Creation (see Psalm 110:1)
- 3) Third display in the \_\_\_\_\_ → His headship over the church

**Conclusion:**

I. What does gaining this wisdom and knowledge and hearts that are enlightened do in our lives? How does it effect us?

A. It ought to be for us a cause of deep and abiding \_\_\_\_\_.

B. It ought to be for us a call to enthusiastic and devoted \_\_\_\_\_.

**Key Point:** Because the risen Christ reigns supreme above every other name and can mightily work within your heart, you can pray for yourself and others to know and understand and see the magnificence of salvation found in Christ and Christ alone.