

Bible Study

Ephesians 1:15-23

Introduction: Telescope story. When have you experienced something unexpectedly powerful?

Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-23.
2. In verse 16, St. Paul mentions thanksgiving and prayer. What do you see as the connection between these two things? For what is St. Paul thankful with respect to the Ephesian Christians?
3. Verse 17 tells us the first part of St. Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church, that God may give them a Spirit of _____ and _____. Why would St. Paul ask for the *Spirit* of wisdom and revelation instead of just wisdom and revelation? Wisdom vs. being smart. Wisdom vs. foolishness.
4. Verse 18 tells us the second part of St. Paul's prayer, that the eyes of your _____ may be enlightened. What do you think St. Paul means by the eyes of your heart? The heart in the Old Testament. Why is it not enough to have just the eyes of your intellect enlightened or the eyes of your actions enlightened?
5. The rest of verse 18 and then verse 19 unpack to what it is St. Paul hopes the eyes of our hearts to be enlightened.
 - a. "in order that you may know the _____ to which he has _____ you."
 - i. Hope for the future can be based on different kinds of knowing.
 - ii. Faith and the father / child example.
 - iii. Hope is grounded in God's power to restore all things in and through Jesus, as Jesus' resurrection demonstrates. Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-23.

- b. “the riches of his glorious _____ with the saints.” What is the relationship between the resurrection and this glorious inheritance?
- c. “his incomparably great _____ for us who _____.” The word believe in this verse is the faith we associate with trust.
6. In verses 20-21, St. Paul tells us how God’s immeasurable power is manifested. At your tables, make a list of the ways St. Paul presents this power. Also, how does St. Paul’s talk about God’s power possibly differ from our own?
7. In verses 22-23, St. Paul makes the point that Jesus ruling is reigning is on behalf and for the church. Why doesn’t St. Paul say it’s for each of you individually but instead says it’s for you corporately? What do you see as the importance between the head and the body, seeing that Jesus is the head and the church the body?
8. What is St. Paul claiming about Jesus when he says that Jesus is the “fullness of him who fills everything in every way”?