



ephesians together

Review

Initial comments, questions, and reactions about the sermon?

Main Points:

1. **The hope of your calling.** He knows you, wants, loves and has chosen you.
2. **The riches of the inheritance.** The restoring of all things.
3. **The greatness of His power.** The power of life to swallow up death.

Reflect

Read Ephesians 1:15-23 as a group.

Questions:

1. **As you think back on your prayer life, what are the things you've been praying for recently?** What's been your biggest prayer in the last month? Let the group answer. Then ask, what do you think determines our prayer life, and what do you think determined Paul's first prayer here?
2. **Focus on v. 17-18a. The first thing: that we would know the hope of our calling.** Joe shared a video of a girl who found out she was adopted after spending over 1000 days in foster care. How does that video show us and communicate the hope of our calling? Describe all that it means that Jesus calls us. What does that stir up in you? [Click here](#) for the video.?
3. **Focus on v.18b. The second thing Paul prays: we would know the riches of the inheritance.** Paul wants the Ephesians to know just how rich they are in God. He is referring to the future restoration of all things. Read Revelation 21:1-5 and describe the inheritance that awaits Christians. How is it different from an earthly inheritance we might receive, and what makes it attractive to you? What is one thing you hope and long to inherit more than anything else?
4. **Focus on v. 19-23. The third thing: the greatness of His power.** We see destructive power, especially in hurricanes like the one in the Carolinas, but Paul is writing about a redeeming power here. How do we see God's power on display in the life of Jesus? List everything you see. When and where have you have seen God's redeeming power on display in your life? Or where do you hope to experience His power?

Respond

Application.

1. **Read the story of Lazarus in John 11:38-44.** How do you think he responded to what Jesus did? What was Lazarus 2.0 like? How can we be more like Lazarus?
2. **Inheritance:** If our greatest inheritance is not of this world, how do we develop an appetite for our future inheritance more so than an earthly one? What seems to be an appropriate response to the material things we have now?
3. **Prayer:** How do you see this passage impacting your prayer life? If nothing else, let's take Joe's encouragement and make it a regular rhythm for us.

Pray

Go around as a group and ask for prayer requests. Pray as a group together.

Dig Deeper

If you have time.

The Riches of His Inheritance – Explanation #2. In the sermon, Joe talked about how the riches of His inheritance could be read one of two ways – either how precious you are to God or how rich you are in God. We already talked about how rich we are in God, and in this section, let's dig deeper into how precious we are to Him.

Read Isaiah 43:1-7 (also see Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2, and 1 Peter 2:9).

Main Points:

1. What things or people that are most precious to you? If there was a fire in your house, what or who would you choose to save?
2. How do these verses talk about our relationship to God? Who are we to Him, and how is that different or similar to how you normally think God's view of you? What stands out to you?
3. What makes it hard to believe our preciousness to God? How does the gospel communicate our ultimate value and preciousness to God? (See Acts 20:28).
4. What hope or confidence does this passage give to us, especially in hard situations, or difficult circumstances?
5. If we believed we really are precious to God, what are some ways our life would change, or how would we approach things differently? Read 1 Peter 2:9 for further instruction on how God wants us to respond.

Announcements

Please share with your group!

1. **Family Fall Fest:** On Saturday, September 22, from 11am-2pm we have a FREE fun event for families and their kids. Lunch is provided as well.
2. **Women's Fall Retreat:** On September 28th- 29th we will be focused on applying spiritual disciplines to your everyday life and enjoying the company of other women. Price varies on room preferences. See our website for more details.
3. **Employment Transition Advisor Group:** If you are looking for a great and simple way to serve, look no further than here. Whether you realized it or not, CCC has a great ministry to help people who are in a job transition. There is an opportunity to be an advisor to them and help them find their next position, while also providing support in this transition. Women advisors are in particular need. Contact Frank Zammataro at ftransition1@gmail.com if you are interested.