What You Need To Know

Ephesians 1:15-19
15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,
16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;
17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power.

Intro: What You Need To Know

- In the first chapter of the book of Ephesians
  - the apostle Paul makes it known
    - that he has prayed a special intercessory prayer
      - for the church at Ephesus.
- In that prayer he prayed that God,
  - through the spirit of wisdom and revelation
    - would open the eyes of their understanding
  - to receive a fresh awareness
    - of three crucial things
      - that the church needs to know.
- I find it interesting
  - that when Paul praying for the church,
    - he prays that their eyes will be opened
      - to understand
        - what God wants them to know.
- That tells me something:
  - It is possible for the things of this world
    - to darken your vision,
    - to block your eyes,
    - to cause you to loose sight
      - of some important things
        - that you need to know.
- Satan understands this.
  - He knows that if he can blind you
    - to the power
    - and the working of God in your life
      - he can wear you down.
- That if he can keep you
o stumbling in the darkness
  ▪ without a revelation
    • of the blessings of God in your life
      o for long enough
  o he can cause you
    ▪ to grow weary in well doing,
    ▪ to lose sight of the prize,
    ▪ to give up the struggle
      • and to stop short of the mark
        o of the high calling
        o of Jesus Christ in your life!

• You see he knows that you are destined for better things.
  o He recognizes the hand of God upon your life.
    ▪ And he tries, with everything that he has
      • to confuse your understanding
        o of what God has done for you
      • and to rob you of the vision
        o of what God has planned for you.
  o Paul looked at the church in Ephesus
    ▪ and he said, I know you are in a struggle,
      ▪ I know your enemy has tried to distract you,
      ▪ I know that the problems of this life
        • have tried to blind you,
      ▪ but I’m asking God to open your eyes!
    o I’m asking God to give you revelation,
      ▪ to cut through the fog,
      ▪ to send a light to pierce the darkness
        • that surrounds you
          o and cause you to see God’s purpose
            ▪ and God’s grace in your life!

• You will never accomplish
  o what God has called you to do,
    ▪ you will never walk
      • in the joy of your salvation
      • and lay hold of the prize
        o that has been set before you
    ▪ if you can’t ever catch a glimpse
      • of the plan and purpose of God in your life.
  o So Paul said,
    ▪ I’m praying to God that He will open your eyes!

• I want you to know,
  o that I’ve prayed the same thing
    ▪ over this church this afternoon.
I’ve prayed that the glorious light of revelation
  would shine into your heart tonight.
That God would cause you to see,
  to know,
    to understand
    the greatness and majesty
      of his power and purpose
        in your life.
In the military they call it the fog of war,
  the confusion,
  the uncertainty,
  the doubt that arises
    when you cannot clearly see
      your place and your purpose
        on the battlefield.
The enemy tries to distract you,
  he tries to bog you down in daily struggles
    to cause you to become
      captivated by the battle
        and lose sight of the prize
  but I’ve come to preach to you tonight
    a word from heaven.
A revelation of the power
  and purpose of God for your life
    is what you need
      if you are going to make it
        through this fight!
Paul told the church in Ephesus,
  and I’m telling you tonight,
    that there are three things
      that you need to know,
        three things that you can’t lose sight of.
For the next few moments
  I invite you to lift up your spiritual eyes
    and catch a glimpse
      of the eternal glory of God
        working in your life!

First: The hope of his calling.
  The first thing that Paul prayed for the church was this:
    that ye may know what is the hope of His calling.
  First of all, its His calling, not yours.
    It is you who have been called,
      but it wasn’t you that did the calling.
• Sometimes the devil tries
  o to make you think
    ▪ that you called yourself;
      ▪ that you dreamed this up on your own.
  o But you need to know
    ▪ that God has called you,
      ▪ God has placed his own hand
        o upon your life,
      ▪ God has chosen you
        o out of all the people in the world.
  o You didn’t choose him,
    ▪ He chose you,
      ▪ he picked you to of the multitude
        o and said I’m going to perform
          ▪ a good work in your life!

• God looked at you and said,
  o I’m about to make something
    ▪ out of nothing!
• He chose you from the foundations.
  o Like the prophet,
    ▪ he called you from your mother’s womb.
  o Your hope is in his calling.
    ▪ He knew you before you knew him.
      ▪ He called you
        o before you ever felt his hand on your life.

• But the thing that you need to know
  o is not just who did the calling.
    ▪ You need to know
      ▪ what is the hope of His calling.
• What is the hope?
  o In the Bible “hope” always refers
    ▪ to something future,
      ▪ it signifies more than just wishful thinking,
      ▪ it is a confident expectation
        o that will come to pass
          ▪ by the power of God himself!
• Hope is the basis of faith
  o that reaches for some future reward
    ▪ and Paul said you need to remember
      ▪ the hope that compels you,
      ▪ the hope that set you on your course.
    ▪ You need to remember
      ▪ that your hope is not in this life,
• your hope is not in the things of this world.
  ▪ You aren't living for what is down here,
  ▪ you aren’t living for what
    o is on this side of glory.
  o You need to know.
    ▪ You need to be reminded,
      ▪ what your hope is!

• Our hope is heaven,
  o that’s what we are living for!
• He has not called us
  o not just to live for him in this world,
    ▪ he has called us to be with him in eternity.
• He has made us for another world,
  o he has made us for the hope of heaven.
• Romans 8:24-25 says:
  o 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?
  o 25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.
• The Greek word for patience means endurance.
  o Paul is saying,
    ▪ you have to endure this present world,
    ▪ you have to endure
      ▪ the trials and troubles of this life
    ▪ and this is how you do it:
      • You have to get the finish line in view.
      • You have to your eyes on the prize.
        o We are saved by Hope!
  o Hope in what we cannot see
    ▪ is what compels us
      ▪ through the very real
        o troubles and trials of this life
          ▪ that we can see!

• I’m going to join my voice with Paul tonight,
  o I’m praying for a revelation of heaven
    ▪ to settle into this place.
• We need to be reminded,
  o we need to know,
    ▪ that there is city whose builder and maker is God!
• There are streets that are made
  o of Gold that is so pure
    ▪ that it is clear like glass.
A city that has walls of Jasper
  ▪ and twelve foundations made
    ▪ from precious stones
  ▪ upon which are written
    ▪ the names of the Apostles of the Lamb.

There are twelve gates to that city,
  ▪ fashioned from twelve great pearls.

Where that city is,
  ▪ there is no sun
    ▪ and there is no moon,
    ▪ because the Lamb is the light of that city.

There will never come a night over there.
  ▪ There will never be any sickness
    ▪ or any despair.
  ▪ There will be no more crying,
    ▪ there will be no more pain.
  ▪ There’s never gonna be any toil or trouble over there.

In that glorious city
  ▪ we will see the one who saved us by his grace.

Do you want to know the best part of it?
  ▪ Of all the wonders of heaven
  ▪ of all the glory of his grace,
    ▪ the Bible says that the half
      ▪ has never yet been told,
    ▪ it has never entered into the heart of man
      ▪ to even begin to consider
        ▪ the fullness of the glory
        ▪ of that city called heaven!
  ▪ That’s the hope of our calling!
    ▪ That’s the hope that compels us to press on.

We need to be reminded what our hope is!
  ▪ We need to catch a glimpse of heaven.

When Peter wrote to the church,
  ▪ in the midst of persecution,
    ▪ his first goal was to remind them
      ▪ that we have an inheritance,
        ▪ incorruptible and undefiled
          ▪ that fadeth not away.
  ▪ We have the hope of heaven
    ▪ and that is what compels us
      ▪ through this present world.

We are the sons of God,
  ▪ and our inheritance
• is the full measure
  • of the riches
  • of the glory of God
    o in heaven!

• I want to remind someone in this place tonight
  o that heaven is worth living for.
    • I want to remind someone
      • that heaven is worth striving for.
  o Heaven is worth denying my will for.
    • Heaven is worth rejecting sin for.

• If you trade every pleasure of this life,
  o every bit of earthly riches and treasure
    • for the hope of heaven,
      • I’m here to tell you
        o that heaven is worth it!
  o It’s worth living for
    • and it’s worth dying for.

• If we could just, for a moment this evening,
  o catch a glimpse of the glory of heaven
    • we would discover
      • that it fuels our endurance,
        o it give energy to our determination
          • to live for God.
  o The key to victorious living in this life,
    • is to never forget
      • that your destination is not in this world.
  o Remember what you are living for!

Second: The glory of his inheritance

• The second thing that Paul prayed for the church
  o was that they may know:
    • what (are) the riches
    • of the glory of his inheritance
      • in the saints.

• Listen to me, there is revelation here
  o that you need to get,
    • God is about to open
      • the eyes of your understanding:
        o Heaven is our inheritance,
          • but WE are God’s inheritance.

• His inheritance is in the saints!
  o This is not the inheritance
    • that God has for his people.


- This is the inheritance
  - that God has in his people.
    - **God’s inheritance is in his church!**

- We need to be reminded of our value to God!
  - If we could really see the church as God sees it,
    - if we could really see ourselves as God sees us,
      - it would open our eyes
        - to how much we matter to God.
          - We are his bride.
          - We are the apple of his eye.
  - HE has chosen us,
    - he has invested himself in us,
      - and we are his reward!
- This is a truth that echo’s through scripture.
  - God has always desired a people
    - that would fulfill His purpose,
      - a church that he could share himself with,
        - a bride that could know the fellowship
          - of the riches of his glory!
  - Way back in Deuteronomy 32:9
    - the Bible says, “For the LORD’S portion is his people;
      - Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.”
      - We are his inheritance!

- I know that I just said that our hope is heaven,
  - but I want to take that as step further
    - for just a moment.
- I oversimplified our hope a moment ago,
  - because what I’m about to say
    - makes more sense in the context
      - of this second revelation.
  - Our hope is more than just heaven,
    - because what makes heaven “heaven”
      - is God, himself.
- It is his presence
  - that makes that place so special,
    - it is his fellowship
      - that makes it so rewarding.
  - It is the presence of God
    - that is our real reward in heaven.
- **He is our inheritance**
  - and now we see that we are his!
    - **He is the object of our hope**
\* and we are the object of his desire.

- You gotta get this
  - because you have to realize
    - how much you matter to God!
    - You are his inheritance.
    - You are his reward.
- Listen, Hebrews 12:2 says
  - that Jesus Christ endured
    - the pain and the agony,
    - the shame and the reproach,
      - of the cross
      - for the joy that was set before him.
        - You are that joy.
        - You are that reward.
  - Just as much
    - as the hope of an eternity with him
      - is what compels you through
        - the suffering of this present life,
    - the hope of an eternity with you
      - is what compelled God
        - to make himself
          - a little lower than the angels,
            - to become a man, flesh and blood,
              - and to endure the suffering
                - of the cross!
    - He did it for you,
      - not just for your benefit,
        - but also for his benefit,
          - for the benefit of being with you for eternity!
            - You are his reward!
- The purpose of God for the church
  - is far greater than just
    - saving us from our sins.
  - It is far greater than just
    - preserving us from this present world.
  - Our salvation is the necessary first step
    - to get to what God really desires.
      - It is only the beginning.
- He didn’t just want to save you from your sins.
  - He wanted to set you aside for himself!
    - He wants to fellowship with you.
    - He wants to walk with you.
• He wants to talk with you.
  • He wants to know you
    o and he wants you to know him.
    o That’s the real prize,
      • that’s the reason why he went to the cross!
• You need to know that,
  o you need to get a revelation
    • of what you mean to God,
      • because there’s confidence
        o in that revelation.
• When you realize what you mean to Him
  o you will realize that
    • He will never forsake you.
    • He will never abandon you.
      • He will complete the good work
        o that he has begun in you,
          • because you are his inheritance!
            • You are his prize!
• I’m praying that the Holy Ghost
  o will stir someone up in this place tonight
    • to appreciate the extraordinary value
      • which God places on you!

Third: The exceeding greatness of his power towards us.
• The final thing that Paul prayed
  o for the church to know was:
    • what is the exceeding greatness
      • of his power [toward us] who believe,
        o according to the working of his mighty power.
• Earlier, when I introduced the subject of hope,
  o I made the statement
    • that biblical hope is not wishful thinking.
      • It is something that God will bring to pass.
  o Biblical hope
    • is hope that is placed
      • in the ability of God to do
        o what He said He would do.
• Our hope is in God
  o and God’s hope is in us.
    • Tonight we need to recognize
      • that God will have a church,
      • he will have a bride,
        o he will rapture
          • a pure, spotless, and holy people
Need To Know

- from this present world.
  - He has purchased his church
    - with his own blood
    - and the final thing that we need to know
      - is that His hope will not be in vain.
      - **He will preserve His church by His own power!**
    - We need to know
      - what is the exceeding greatness
        - of his power towards us!

- One scholar said that verse 19
  - contains the greatest collection
    - of “power” and “greatness” words
      - found anywhere in the Bible.
  - When Paul starts talking
    - about how God is going to preserve his church,
      - he puts a huge emphasis
        - on the “power” of God.

- He tells us that
  - the exceeding greatness of God’s power
    - is directed towards us.

- He has committed
  - an abundant supply of His power
    - to make sure that we have
      - every resource that we need
        - to make it through this life!

- That tells me that I can’t make it on my own.
  - It takes a supernatural investment
    - of the exceeding greatness
      - of the power of God
        - for me to be able to overcome
          - this present world
            - and make heaven my home.

- But it also tells me
  - that God has not held anything back,
    - he has fully invested himself
      - to the goal of preserving you and me
        - as his prize.

- If you lose out with God,
  - if you fail to make it to heaven,
    - it won’t be because God didn’t use
      - every resource at his disposal
        - to give you every opportunity possible
• Let me tell you where the real revelation lies,
  • let me tell you what you need
    • your eyes opened to understand:
      • God has fully invested
        • the exceeding greatness of His own power
          • into making sure that you make it to heaven!
      • All of the fullness of his power
        • is directed towards you!
          • All of the riches of his glory,
          • all of the greatness of his majesty,
          • all of the resources of heaven
            • have been committed
              • to the great cause of your salvation!

• You need to be reminded
  • that you are not in this thing alone:
    • The exceeding, great and mighty power of God
      • is working for you.
  • You need to be reminded
    • that he plots your path,
      • he orders your footsteps,
        • he governs your life.
  • And He has stacked the odds in your favor.
    • He takes the things
      • that your enemy meant for evil,
        • and he turns them into a blessing.
    • He takes the attack
      • that was supposed to destroy you
        • and uses it to build your faith
          • and move you to another level.
    • He’s the one who makes all thing
      • To work together for your good!
        • All things,
          • everything that comes into your life
            • is woven into the masters plan
              • for the preservation of your soul.
        • Nothing takes him by surprise!
          • He who watches over you
            • never sleeps nor slumbers!

• Don’t get me wrong,
  • I’m not preaching eternal security,
I realize that it is possible,
  • after having tasted of the riches of glory,
    o to become a cast away.
  o But I also know
    • that if that happens,
      • it won’t God’s fault,
      • it won’t be because
        o he didn’t do everything in his power
          ▪ to protect you,
          ▪ to bless you
          ▪ and to preserve you.
    • No man can pluck you from his hand,
      • no power in hell can rob God
        o of his inheritance.
  • You, and you alone,
    o posses the power to remove yourself
      • from the hedge of protection
        ▪ that God has placed around you!
  • Paul called it the *exceeding greatness of his power*.
    o The word “exceeding” in this verse
      ▪ comes from a Greek word,
        • which means “to throw beyond the usual mark.”
          o It has the connotation
            ▪ of surpassing the expectation.
    o What it means is that God's power
      ▪ is always outdoing itself.
    o Just when you think you’ve seen
      • the extent of the power of God,
        • just when you think
          o he’s set the mark
          o for the excellence of his power,
        • just when you think
          o he’s worked the greatest miracle
            ▪ that he could ever work
            ▪ on your behalf,
              • he surpasses it.
              • He goes beyond.
              • He exceeds himself!
        • That is the exceeding greatness of his power.
  • The next valley you face
    o may be deeper than any valley
      ▪ you’ve ever faced before,
• but the exceeding greatness of his power
  o will be greater than
    ▪ anything you’ve ever seen before!
• God is going to do whatever it takes
  o to help you make it through the valley.
    ▪ There will be tests
      • and trial in this life,
        o you will suffer with Christ,
      • you will face a daily battle
        o against an enemy that is determined
          ▪ to rob you of your inheritance,
      • but you need to know
        o that the full weight
          ▪ of the glory and majesty of heaven,
        o the exceeding greatness
          ▪ of the power of God
            ▪ is working on your behalf.
• Even when you can’t see it,
  o even when you don’t realize it,
    ▪ even when it seems as if you are all alone,
  • mark my words,
    o He is there
      ▪ and his power
        ▪ is working for you!

Close: You can make it!
• Holocaust survivor Ernie Marx
  o devoted the latter year of his life
    ▪ to sharing his personal experience
      • of surviving a Nazi concentration camp.
• One thing he shared quite often
  o was that the Germans had a rule in the camps
    ▪ that no prisoner could look up towards the sky.
• He said, "The Germans wouldn’t let us look up,
  o because if you looked up,
    ▪ that gave you hope
      • and we were not supposed to have hope."
• He said it was not uncommon
  o to see men, women and even children
    ▪ beaten and bloodied beyond belief
      • for no other crime
        • than simply, lifting their eyes to heaven.
• I come to tell someone in this place tonight
**Notes by Pastor Tony McCall**

**The Pentecostals of Lake City**

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**Need To Know**

- that you need to lift up your eyes,
  - because that’s where your hope is.

- Lift up your eyes to the hills,
  - because that’s where your help is coming from.
    - He is the Lord.
    - He is the maker of heaven and earth
      - and he has placed
        - all of his power and majesty
          - at your disposal.
          - His power works in you.

- These are things you need to know!
  - You need to know
    - what the hope of his calling is.
      - You need to take your eyes
        - off of all that you can see around you
          - and catch a glimpse
            - of the eternal reward of heaven.

  - You need to know
    - that God’s inheritance is in his church!
      - You need to understand
        - that God is your reward
          - and that you are his prize.

  - And you need to know
    - that you can make it through anything
      - that this life throws at you
        - because God is on your side!

- Just as surely as the Nazi guards understood it,
  - your enemy knows
    - that, if he can keep your eyes on your problems,
      - your problems will seem bigger than your God.

- But Paul knew and understood,
  - that if your eyes could be opened
    - for just a moment,
      - if you could catch just a glimpse
        - of the exceeding greatness
          - of the power of God
          - that works on your behalf
        - that you would hang in there,
          - that you would hold on,
            - that you would never give up.

- I’ve come to tell someone in this place to lift up your eyes!
• They used to sing a song:
  o I can make it,
    ▪ my faith can take it,
    ▪ I’ve got heaven my mind.
  o I can do it,
    ▪ go right through it,
    ▪ keep the faith
    ▪ till I cross the finish line!

• You can make it!
  o Heaven is on your side!