

Know What Is

Ephesians 1:15-21

Introduction:

- A. Most claim that what seems to be true is true
 - 1. Correlation studies are notorious for not taking into account other f_____
 - 2. Politicians notoriously:
 - a. Taking c_____ for a better economy or higher educational scores “while in office.”
 - b. Placing b_____ for a terrible economy or lower educational scores while in office on the other party.
- B. The apostle Paul wanted his readers to know what truly is, praying that God would give them a s_____ of wisdom and of revelation.
 - 1. The word spirit:
 - a. Does not refer to the H_____ spirit since all believers already have Him indwelling inside them.
 - b. Does refer to an a_____ or aptitude (e.g. Rom 11:8 – a spirit of stupor; 1Cor 4:21 – a spirit of gentleness; 2Tim 1:7 – a spirit of fear)
 - 2. The word revelation has to do with God’s t_____
 - 3. The word wisdom has to do with a_____ God’s truth to our every day lives.
- C. Paul’s prayer deals with his readers knowing “what is” true in three areas.
 - 1. Let’s make sure we focus on “what is” true rather than what seems to be true.
 - 2. Let’s contrast what is the truth in each area with what seems to be the truth in this world.

What is confidence (18) - *that you may know what is the hope of His calling.*

- A. The word hope
 - 1. In the English language, it means a strong w_____ that may or may not happen (e.g. *I hope it does not rain tomorrow*).
 - 2. In the context of Eph 1:18
 - a. When it comes to the things of God, hope is not a wish but a c_____
 - b. Rom 5:5 states that the hope God gives does not d_____.
 - c. The NLT translates the meaning well – *confident hope*

B. What is the hope of God's calling?

1. God's calling has to do with His call to s _____ (see Eph 4:1,4; 1Cor 1:9; 1Pet 2:9).
2. Hope refers to the future and often refers to when Jesus returns and completes our salvation (see Rom 5:2; 8:20,24,25; 2Cor 1:10; Gal 5:5; Eph 4:4; Col 1:5; 1Thess 5:8; Titus 3:7; 1Pet 1:13)

C. Hope should give us our w _____ as a person.

1. The world works to b _____ self-worth and the results SEEM to be a good thing.
 - a. Focus on something you are good at to f _____ good about yourself as a person.
 - b. Those that do the above display c _____ and pride.
 - c. But this makes self-worth based on p _____
 - 1) What happens if one cannot perform well any more? – they will f _____ worthless.
 - 2) This makes worth all about self and self has always been the p _____ (Lk 9:23)
2. What has God revealed to us believers? -Jesus d _____ for us, saved us, and will come again for us.
3. What wisdom are we to have? – that we base our confidence in God which will enable us to l _____ God's way (making things all about Him, not about us).

What is wealth (18b) - that you may know *what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*

A. The word saints (NIV – holy people)

1. Literal meaning – those set a _____ to serve
2. Practical meaning – those set apart from the w _____ to serve the Lord.

B. The inheritance is a _____ the saints and refers to all that God owns that He is going to share with us.

1. The world measures wealth in d _____, and so it SEEMS to be true that those with more money are wealthier than those with less money.
 - a. Yet there a those who make over \$100,000 per year that financially s _____ just as much as those in poverty, living paycheck to paycheck
 - b. People invest for r _____ but dreams can be dashed by:
 - 1) A failing m _____
 - 2) D _____

2. What is the revelation?
 - a. God owns e_____
 - b. God will give us our i_____
3. What is the wisdom?
 - a. Don't w_____ about your financial future (okay to invest and plan but with the understanding that you can lose it all).
 - b. Trust that God will s_____ all your needs (Phil 4:19)
 - c. Serve God, not money.

What is power (19-21) - that you may know *what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.*

- A. God revealed His power in the Old Testament many ways
 1. The parting of the R_____ Sea
 2. Providing two million people with daily m_____ for 40 years in a desert.
- B. God revealed His power in the gospel accounts in many ways.
 1. Jesus healed all d_____
 2. Jesus cast out d_____
 3. Jesus fed thousands with only _____ loaves of bread and _____ small fish.
 4. Jesus raised Lazarus back to l_____
- C. The surpassing greatness of God's power was displayed when Jesus rose from the dead.
 1. Jesus came back to life, never to d_____ again.
 2. Jesus resurrection power gave Him position F_____ ABOVE all other powers
 3. Paul wants us to know Christ's resurrection power.
- D. The world thinks that the one with the most power wins
 1. U.S. has the best military and intelligence, yet was unable to prevent _____ from happening.
 2. Marriages fail because spouses try to c_____ one another.
 3. Parenting fails when it becomes a c_____ issue.
 4. People are happy when circumstances are great but unhappy when they are terrible.
- E. What is the revelation? - God works His resurrection power toward us who b_____ (v. 19). This power is available to us.
- F. What is the wisdom? – use that power in how you live
 1. Don't let circumstances rob you of j_____ (Phil 4:4; Jms 1:2), thankfulness (1 Thess 5:18)
 2. Use God's power to overcome t_____ (1Cor 10:13)