

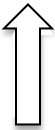
EPHESIANS



Rooted and Grounded
in love

Lesson Two EPHESIANS 1:11-23

Day 1



Father, as I read your word help me to see more clearly who you are and who I am in you. Help me to live out of the riches of your grace to me.

- Read Ephesians 1:11-23 several times. Read through the passage *prayerfully*—responding to what you are reading with praise, thanksgiving, confession or surrender. (God speaks to us through his word and we respond back to him through prayer.)
- Pick one word or phrase that stands out to you to ponder on throughout the day and week. (It may be something that resonates with you or that you want to understand better.) Write it here.
- Write one sentence summarizing the passage.

Day 2- Eph.1:11-14

Write out verses 11-14.

1. According to verse 11, what is another blessing we receive because God chose to adopt us into his family and unite us to Jesus?

Digging Deeper:

What do we learn about our inheritance from the following verses?

1 Peter 1:3-5 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

James 2:5 Listen my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

2. What beautiful truth do we see about God at the end of verse 11?

- What implications does this truth have for your life?

3. Verse 11 tells us that God chose and adopted us and gave us an inheritance for a purpose. What is that purpose revealed in verses 12 and 14?

Scholar's Note: Glory- The radiance of God's holiness, the weight or devastating beauty of his [many] perfections.¹



Peter reveals the same truth Paul is talking about:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

If we are in Christ our purpose is clear—we are to be worshippers and call others to worship! We praise God and proclaim his excellencies!

- ❖ Does praise for God flow from your heart and mouth often? Do you see your purpose in life as a banner for God's glory? Pray that God would help you to live out this calling.

4. What is human responsibility in regards to salvation according to verse 13?

Digging Deeper:

Paul tells us in verse 13 that when we hear the good news of salvation and believe, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

- How do the verses below help us understand what it is to be sealed with the Holy Spirit and also how the Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance (v. 14)?

2 Cor. 1:22

(NLT) [God] has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.(NLT)

Here it is in the HCSB:

He has also sealed us and given us the Spirit as a down payment in our hearts.

Romans 8:16-17a The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...

- What is another aspect of being sealed that we see in the verse below?

Esther 8:8 But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked.

Scholar's Note: "[A seal] was affixed to a document to guarantee its genuineness. It was attached to goods in transit to indicate ownership and ensure protection. It also represented a designation of office in the state service."



Thank you Father for the amazing gift of your Holy Spirit living in me— keeping me, guiding me and assuring me.

Day 3- Eph.1:15-17

Write out verses 15-17.

Picture and Ponder:

"First, [Paul] blesses God for having blessed us in Christ (vs.3-14); then he prays that God will open our eyes to grasp the fullness of this blessing (vs.15-23)."²

5. How does Paul start his prayer for the believers in Ephesus (vs. 15-16)?

-What has the faith of the Ephesians produced?

-Why should we notice and be thankful for God's gracious work in others?

6. Paul prays in verse 17 that the Ephesians would grow in their knowledge of God. What do we need from the Spirit in order to know God better according to verse 17?

Digging Deeper:

In 1 Corinthians Paul helps us understand why he prays for the Spirit’s wisdom and revelation in knowing God.

- Why do we need the Spirit’s wisdom and revelation to know God?

1 Corinthians 2:10-12¹⁰ ...these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Picture and Ponder:

“The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.”³



Father help my highest desire to be to know you. Work by your Spirit to give me wisdom to know you and insight to understand you and as you reveal yourself may I love you more and more.

Day 4- Eph.1:18-20a

Write out verses 18-20a.

After Paul asks for the Spirit to help the Ephesians (and us) know God better (v.17), he asks for the Spirit to enlighten our spiritual sight so that we may know three things:

(1.) the hope to which he has called you (v.18)

7. What do we have because God has called us?

Scholar's Note: Biblical hope- waiting and trusting with confident expectation and desire for what God has promised to come to pass; this confidence is fueled by God's faithfulness.

-What is the hope to which we are called as children of God?

-How will knowing the hope to which you are called make a difference in your life today?

(2.) the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints (v.18)

8. The NLT translates verse 18b as *His holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance*. When God took us to be his own people, he inherited us– we became his inheritance. Why are we a *glorious* inheritance?



How does knowing that the glorious God of the universe considers you a treasure to be inherited impact your view of yourself?

- ❖ How does it impact your view of other believers?
- ❖ How does it speak to issues of insecurity and comparisons?
- ❖ What does it say about God?

according to the working of his great might (v. 19)

9. How does Paul describe God's power?

- The words Paul uses in the Greek to describe power show us different facets and nuances of God's power. How have you seen or experienced these aspects of God's power?

Power- raw strength or power

Working- the inward propulsion of power

Great- ability to conquer

Might- physical force



Verse 20a tells us more about this immeasurably great power of God's toward those who believe: *This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead...(NLT)*

- ❖ If you are a believer how has this mighty power of God's already worked in your life? (Rom. 1:16)

- ❖ What are ways this power can operate in us who believe right now? (Eph. 3:20, Jude 24-25, 1 Cor. 1:8-9)

- ❖ How will it be used for believers in the future? (Phil 3:21, 1 Cor. 15:51-53, Rom. 8:30)

- ❖ Where do you need God's power to work in your life now?

“...only God’s power can fulfill the expectation which belongs to his call and bring us safely to the riches of the glory of the final inheritance he will give us in heaven.”⁴

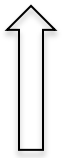


We learn from Paul that to know God and to grasp the glorious blessings he has for us, we must have the Spirit working in our hearts and enlightening our spiritual eyes. Without wisdom, revelation, and illumination from the Spirit we will not be able to hope in God, experience his power, or see and treasure God’s blessings as beautiful and supremely desirable.

- ❖ Do your prayers look like Paul’s? How will you make praying for the Spirit’s work in yourself and others a part of the regular rhythm of your prayer and devotional life? What effect do you think this could have on your life and the life of those you pray for?

Picture and Ponder:

“ We will never grow in the knowledge of God the way we ought if we do not ask God for such things as these.”⁵



Heavenly Father, you are kind and gracious and generous! You give me your riches, your Spirit, and your immeasurable power. Help me to live with confident hope and with the awareness of your great power working in me and for me.

Day 5- Eph.1:20b-23

Write out verses 20b-23.

does God's great power accomplish according to verse 20b?

Scholar's Note: "...we are not to think of God's right hand as a place, but as a symbol of authority.⁶ "The "right hand" is a metaphor for the position of highest honor and bliss and glory and authority and power."⁷

11. What difference does it make in your life to know that Jesus is supreme over every rule, authority, power, dominion and name now and into eternity?

12. As we reflect on Jesus—exalted and glorious, ruler over everything, and then see in verse 22 that he is a gift given to the church, what significance does this put on the church? What are the implications of this for the church?

Digging Deeper:

Read below some of the other places Paul talks about Jesus as head of the church and the church as the body of Christ.

- What does it mean that the church is the body of Jesus?

Colossians 2:19

¹⁹and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it. (NLT)

Romans 12:4-5 ⁴Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.(NLT)

13. Verse 23 in the NLT says that the church is *made full and complete by Christ*. What does Jesus fill the church with?

For Discussion:

What difference does it make that Jesus is the head of the church?

Taking Root:

- What in this portion of Scripture swells your heart with love for God, or makes your heart treasure Jesus?

- What from this portion of Scripture spurs you on to love others?

- How are you challenged to reach God's world after living with this portion of Scripture this week?

¹ Piper, John

² Stott, John. The Message of Ephesians (The Bible Speaks Today Series) (pp. 51-52). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

³ Spurgeon, Charles as quoted in Packer, J. I.. Knowing God (The IVP Signature Collection) (p. 17). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Stott, John. The Message of Ephesians (The Bible Speaks Today Series) (p. 57). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Carson, D.A. Praying With Paul p. 153 Baker Academic, 1992

⁶ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁷ Hughes, R. Kent. Ephesians (ESV Edition) (Preaching the Word) (p. 57). Crossway. Kindle Edition.