**Ephesians 1:11 – 2:10**

March 22-23, 2017

Read Chapter 1:11 – 23

*Vs 11-14 speaks of two different people groups (we and you). The we (as in we who were the first to put our hope in Him) is likely talking of the Jewish believers. The “you” (as in “you also were included”) is likely speaking to Gentile believers. That the Gentiles were also part of this same purpose. Additionally, this passage speaks to being “chosen” or being “heirs” is speaking to believers as now being God’s possession. -Vaughan*

Vs 11: What does it mean that *He works out everything in conformity with the purpose (or counsel ESV) of His will*?

What does this mean for you in your life, in your relationship with Him? Do you trust Him in this, do you trust His will?

Vs 12: What does it mean to *put your hope in Christ*? How can we be used for His praise and glory?

Vs 13: Do you identify as being marked with a seal? What does this mean? What does it mean for you to have the Holy Spirit?

*This seal, the Holy Spirit, is used as proof of ownership, that we are God’s possession. And in the context of that time, it showed that the Gentiles would be like the Jewish believers. -Vaughan*

Vs 14: *Deposit, inheritance*  are typically used as financial terms; what do these terms mean in this context? Note, ESV does not use the term *deposit*, but does use *guarantee* and *possession*.

*This could be seen as a “down payment” or a pledge that Christians will one day enjoy in all its fullness the inheritance laid up for them. -Vaughan*

Vs 17: What do you think the *Spirit of wisdom and revelation* means? Is this different then the Holy Spirit? Do you hope to have these as well so you can know Him better?

*It can likely be as a reference to the Holy Spirit. Paul wants to the readers to experience to the fullest degree the blessed ministry of the Spirit. -Vaughan*

Vs 18-19: Paul speaks in such a way as to almost say (paraphrase) “*you have no idea what you really have, you have no idea how awesome and unfathomably great this all is*.” Do you agree with this? Does this get you excited? Or are we left in a place of complacency or being lukewarm.

In Vs 19, Paul also mentions an incomparably great power for us, a power which is the same power used to raise Christ from the dead. What does this mean for you?

In looking back over verses 15-23, many “mental activity” words are used: wisdom, revelation, know him, enlightened. What importance does this have, what is Paul teaching us or telling us to do?

Vs 21-23 speaks to the power and identity of who Christ is. What are some of the things He calls out? Is this how you see Christ?

Read Chapter 2: 1-10

Vs 1: What does it mean that we *“were”* dead? Why is it necessary to understand the tense of this verse? In your own life, do you identify (agree with) with the tense used here?

Vs. 2: What does it mean to follow the ways of this world?

-What does it mean to gratify the cravings of our flesh? Why does this deserve wrath?

Vs 5: What does it mean to be *made alive*? Compare/contrast the state of being dead to being alive in the context of this passage. What does it mean to be *alive* ***with*** *Christ*?

Vs 6: What has saved us (see also vs 8)? This verse speaks to the past tense as well, that these things have already happened- what has happened? What is our current identity?

Vs 7: What does it mean that He will show us the *riches of his grace*? How have you witnessed His grace in your own life?

Vs 9: *So that we can’t boast, we were not saved through works*- what does this mean to you? Does this make sense? Why should it matter if we can boast or not?

Vs 10: How do you identify as being *God’s handiwork (workmanship)*? What are the good works that we are to do?

Conclusion

Name specific truths that stood out to you from this passage- what did you learn about God, Christ, and your relationship (or identity) with Him? How has what you learned effected your relationship with Him? These verses spoke with the use of strong adjectives to describe who God is and what He does (immeasurable, riches, glorious, mighty strength, works-out-everything, etc), what does this mean for you? What are you going to change as you go from here?

References

*Commentary used was the book- Ephesians: By Curtis Vaughan.*