

## Week 2, Ephesians: Chapter 1, Part 2 (Vs 15-23)

There are **three very important threads** woven all throughout the Book of Ephesians.

**1<sup>st</sup> The believers' position** is eternal, totally holy & unalterable, and is based on the accomplishment of Christ. **2<sup>nd</sup> The believers' condition** is temporary & may be either sinful or holy, and is based on their momentary actions.

**3<sup>rd</sup> The immutable plan of God.** By 'the plan of God' we mean...

1. the \_\_\_\_\_ of our position in eternity past...
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to use the Jewish nation & allowing Gentiles to enter in...
3. \_\_\_\_\_ our position at Calvary through the death of Christ...
4. the plan of \_\_\_\_\_ everything under Christ's authority.

Paul brings out these various aspects of God's plan at different points in Ephesians. Last week, we briefly looked at the part of the mysterious plan of God that included God planning our incredible position from eternity past.

**The book of Ephesians is about becoming who we really are. That is, that believers begin to be, in their condition, what they already are, in their position... and therefore fulfill the plan of God of bringing everything under Christ's authority.**

### Chapter 1, Part 2 (Vs 15-27)

**v15-16** Paul says that he is fervently \_\_\_\_\_ for the believers in Ephesus. The content of his prayers gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the book of Ephesians. The content of his prayers also give us the \_\_\_\_\_ which we are to follow in becoming who we truly are.

**V16-17** The first thing that Paul asks for is that God would give the believers **spiritual wisdom** and **insight**... Paul says that the reason he wants them to have this wisdom and insight is so that they may grow in the knowledge of God.

Therefore the very first step in living out more and more in our condition who we really are in our position is a **growing** \_\_\_\_\_ **of God.**

**This first step is twofold...** (1) Growing in our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) of who God truly is and what he has done on our behalf.

**V18** The second thing that Paul asks for is that God would give the believers **confident hope** in their inheritance. Paul prays that God would fill the hearts of the believers with the light of the truth of their new holy position and fill them with the hope of their eternal inheritance.

Therefore the second step in living out more and more in our condition who we really are in our position is a **confident** \_\_\_\_\_ **in the reality of our position.**

**This second step is twofold...** (1) Having a confident \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in  
(2) the reality of what God has done for us and what God says is now true of us.

**V19-20** The third thing that Paul asks for is that God would allow the believers to understand **his power on their behalf**. Paul prays that God would help the believers understand the incredible power of God and the willingness of God to work mightily on behalf of the believer.

Therefore the third step in living out more and more in our condition who we really are in our position is an **understanding of God's power on our behalf to \_\_\_\_\_ us in action.**

**This third step is twofold...** (1) The understanding of and the walking in \_\_\_\_\_ of (2) God's enabling power to \_\_\_\_\_ us in action.

**V21-23** Paul goes on to close out the chapter by concluding that bringing everything under the authority of Christ in the world, in the church and in our lives is the goal of history. Paul concludes that as the believers are **knowing, believing and relying...** they will be bringing more and more in their lives under the authority of Christ.

Paul says that God has put all things under the authority of Christ. We could say that all things are \_\_\_\_\_ under Christ's authority... however \_\_\_\_\_ in the world around us and in our very lives... there are many things that are not submitted to that authority.

**The goal of Ephesians and the entirety of the epistles is that we, as believers, begin to bring everything in our lives under the will and authority of Christ. (See 1 Cor 10:5)**

**The goal of the life of the believer is to live out this holy position we have before God more and more in our condition and in doing so submit more and more of our lives to the will of Christ.**

**V21** God has put **all things under the authority of Christ** and has made him head over all things for the **benefit of the church...**

The goal is not only that we begin to bring everything in our lives under the will and authority of Christ... but also that we come to realize that in submitting all things to Christ... we benefit. The more that the believer lives out in practice (condition) their eternal holy position (standing) before God the more they and the corporate body benefit.

The true and lasting motive for obeying God, serving God, studying the Word of God... **is because those actions are for our great spiritual benefit.** When we recognize and truly believe that obeying God is in your and my **best interest**. And that following him is for our **ultimate good and eternal joy...** we are not only more apt to obey... but we also bring God great glory.

Our capacity to live according to our new position (and not our flesh) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in direct proportion to our willingness to believe that what he instructs in his Word is for our ultimate good and eternal joy.

We will be more apt to apply the Bible to our lives and live according to our new position when we **believe and embrace the promises and instruction** of God within **as more rewarding and more satisfying** than the promises of sin & disobedience and the comfort of living for self.