Christmas Hope Strengthens You December 26, 2021

*Ephesians 1:15-23 Series: Let in Some Christmas Hope*

What we all most need is eyes to see what God has already given us in Christ.

Intro: Confused as to what it’s worth

1. Ask for eyes to see the great hope that we have
2. You can’t see what you don’t have

v. 15 *For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints …*

1. We need knowledge but also the eyes to perceive it

v. 17 *give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him*

v. 18 *having the eyes of your hearts enlightened*

2 Corinthians 4:6 *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 1:9 *For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.*

1. Seeing our hope helps us live in light of it

v. 18 *that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you*

* As long as we have the Bible, why do we need “the Spirit of wisdom and revelation” and our “hearts enlightened”?
* What can make us spiritually nearsighted and forgetful?
* How does Christian hope shape the way we should live?
1. Ask for eyes to see the riches of your inheritance
2. We have received an inheritance because of Jesus’ death

v. 18 *the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints*

1. Our inheritance is held in a secure trust

1 Peter 1:3-5 *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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1. When we see our inheritance by faith, it changes how we live

Hebrews 11:8 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

Romans 4:20-21 *No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.*

* What’s different about the inheritance described in 1 Peter 1:3-5 and the inheritances that people often fight over today?
* How much of his inheritance did Abraham receive in this life? Was he ripped off by God?
* What is most precious to you about your spiritual inheritance?
1. Ask for eyes to see God’s power for us
2. God’s power is at work on behalf of His people

v. 19 *the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might*

2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence …*

Colossians 1:11 *being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy*

1. Jesus’ resurrection is a demonstration of God’s power

v. 20 *that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places*

1. God’s power is at work through our weakness

2 Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.*

2 Corinthians 12:9 *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

* What kinds of things do we need for “life and godliness”?
* What are the results of God’s power promised in Colossians 1:11? How do those differ from what people often seek in power?
* We might have guessed that God’s power makes us invincible. Why is God’s power perfected in weakness?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Romans 12:9-21.

Notes