

Ephesians - The Power of the Gospel

September 15, 2024

As you engage in this discussion, follow the Spirit's leading and share your thoughts as you reflect on the message. Work through the discussion guide by reading Scripture and reflecting on a couple of questions and points from the message.

### Opening Questions

- **If you have been baptized, will you share about that day?  
How did you know it was time to make that decision?  
How did it change you?**

**Read the following scriptures together.**

#### **Ephesians 1:18-23**

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

#### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh<sup>[a]</sup> and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by*

*works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

### **A FEW QUESTIONS TO PONDER DURING YOUR DISCUSSION:**

- How do you pray for others?
  
- What do you think Paul wants us to understand about God's power and the nature of God from these verses?
  
- In Ephesians 1, what are the three things that Paul prays that the Ephesians would know?
  1. The hope of your calling ~ What is this hope? How does it change you?
  2. The riches of the glory of His inheritance ~ What is this "inheritance"? How does this truth encourage your heart? Why is this truth so complicated to accept?
  3. The surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe ~ How is this power displayed?
  
- What is the relationship between God's grace and salvation
  
- What is the difference between life before and after Christ? How does life in Christ differ from life before Christ?
  
- What does God's grace mean for you? How would you describe the meaning of God's grace in your life?

### **CLOSING: PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR GROUP**

How can you incorporate Paul's prayer into your intercessory prayers for fellow believers?