

Who We Are & Why We're Here

Ephesians 1:13-23 - 10/2/16

*Ephesians 1:13+14

In Christ, we're a people who've been given a pledge of our future inheritance.

How does this affect us today? First, by understanding whether or not you have the Holy Spirit (along with the implications of that).

*Romans 8:9

How do we know the Holy Spirit is within us?... He causes us to bear fruit. He convicts us. He teaches us. He gives us godly counsel. He comforts us.

Having and relying on the Person of the Holy Spirit, is essential in the Christian life. In order to become who God has saved us to become, requires His supernatural activity in our lives.

For one, we can't love the way we need to love unless God the Spirit (Who dwells in believers, And Who is love), helps us to do so.

The second way this verse (and its truth) affects us - is by maintaining an eternal perspective.

We're to be encouraged that our current state (our situations and struggles) - won't be our final lot... Glory in heaven will be.

The Holy Spirit is our deposit (a great taste!) of what's to come - as we'll finally realize in full, that we're literally God's own possession!

*Ephesians 1:15-17

Are you connecting with God spiritually - and regularly?... Apparently Paul (+God!) thought we needed some prayer concerning this. Connect with Him.

The word 'wisdom' here means: "insight of known facts, or the true nature of things". Paul prayed that we'd not only have a spirit of wisdom, but also of 'revelation' in the knowledge of Him... Which is exactly what He's done in Jesus! Do you know Him?

'Revelation' denotes something previously hidden; Heb.1:3 states that Jesus is the "exact representation of (God's) nature". In knowing Him, have you become convinced of?

Know and pray this Ephesians prayer.

*Ephesians 1:18+19(a!!:)

Paul prayed that the eyes of their hearts might be enlightened - desiring that these believer's hearts would see... Having spiritual insight from above.

He focused on three particular areas - their calling (which gives hope) - an inheritance (which is specifically stated here as, 'His inheritance') - and His power (toward believers).

*Ephesians 1:19(b!!:)-23

This goes from Jesus being the Boss over everything (as He *is*) - To Jesus allowing us to complement His Headship.

We've been given a unique and privileged position in this world as Christ's Church... The only representation of the true and living God to a world that is broken, grieving and lost - without Him. This Who we are, and it is why we're here.