

Message Series:

Membership Has Its Privileges
A Study on Ephesians 1-3 Belonging to Christ
May 17, 2009

Today's Message:

Paul's Passionate Prayer
Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 3:16-19

¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Today's Main Thought: Paul prayed passionately that his hearers would fully comprehend the member privileges they inherited by belonging to Christ.

Paul passionately prayed they [Ephesians] would get it!

- What God has done for them before they were born, Ephesians 1:3-8

Jewels for the Journey

- **We have been blessed** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
 - **We have been chosen** and **adopted** as sons (daughters) through Jesus Christ
- The benefits they would receive in the future, Ephesians 1:9-14

Jewel for the Journey

- We are sealed with **the Holy Spirit** as the guarantee of our inheritance

- They are to live “promise people” lives with God’s present power, Ephesians 1:15-23; 3: 6, 16-19

Jewels for the Journey

- We would be strengthened with power in our inner being through the Holy Spirit, v. 16
- We would be indwelt with Christ by faith, v.17
- We would be rooted and grounded in love, v.17
- We would be able to grasp the immeasurable dimensions of Christ love, v.18

Getting Started: Read Psalm 85 and Ephesians 1-3

Digging Deeper: The Ephesians believers lived with a lot of pressure. Their faith was born in a crucible of riots, courtroom conflict, and economic change (see Acts 19:23-40). Later, when Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians, he encouraged them to develop and maintain God’s perspective on their lives and faith. *See Jewels for the Journey.*

Living It Out: What doubts and stresses have caused you to lose perspective? Ephesians suggests that you relax and join Paul in passionate prayer. Take a look at the big picture of God’s work on your behalf. It began long before you arrived and long before your first steps in Christ. It will continue long after you pass from this life. Seeing things in this way can lend perspective to the harsh realities that may dominate your life right now.

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Next Week: Start of a new series

Can We Get Along? A Study on Biblical Peacemaking