

The Calling Ephesians Part 8

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 the saints and his incomparable great power for us who believe.

Ephesians 1:18-19

I have prayed for the church many times. Haven't you? We are the people of God. Though we live in the world, but are not of it. That being said, we need to live in this world with a different vision. Paul prays that the eyes of our heart will see what he sees. Men and women of God who walk in great revelation are desirous that the church body, the family who derives its name from above (Eph 3:14), sees from a different perspective. This is the great hope that Paul has when he prays for our hearts to be captured by fresh pictures of heavenly realities that will change our view of life. May your life be forever changed!

The first download of heavenly reality is to know the hope to which we have been called. Actually, the text reads more literally, to know the hope of his calling. Whenever anyone on earth has made a promise to you, you may have some hope but most people have some reservations as well. There is no need for any of that with the glorious Father. The hope of his calling has already taken place (II Tim 1:8-9), is an ongoing daily reality (I Thess 2:11-12; 5:23-24), it looks to the future of eternal glory or what is called the blessed hope (Titus 2:13) and all of this is irrevocable (Romans 11:29). That is where Jesus wants the treasures of your heart to be. May the eyes of your heart be enlightened!

OK, if this calling has such great security and is never ending, what exactly is it? Good question, listen to this: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights (there's that word again, see last weeks teaching), who does not change like the shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created (James 1:17-18)." You were chosen. That is the first part of the call. Jesus made it very clear to his disciples, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last (John 15:16)." You are highly favored. You were chosen by the Lord. All of your efforts and all of your good looks did not get you there. He chose you. You did not accept him, he accepted you. He came and got you. Just as Jesus picked out each of his disciples and called them to be with him, he picked you out and called you to be with him. If you are reading this, you are probably with him. The reality of this calling is to make you followers. He wants you to be with him.

If you are like me, you accepted the invitation. That is the second part of the call. You said yes to Jesus, "Yes, Lord, I accept you and I accept the invitation to be with you." Wow, immediately we were born into a new Kingdom. To know is to be with him. To be with him you must be born again (John 3:3). Paul said that we are to know the hope of his calling. When Jesus called his first disciples, it was by the virtue of relationship that they were permitted to know him and the Kingdom with all of its benefits (Luke 8:10). But in order to know him they had to commit to being his disciple both by following him and putting their complete faith in him (John 2:11). This is the third and most dangerous part of the process. The fourth part of the calling is the great reward of bearing fruit that lasts (John 15:16). The final part of the calling has been mentioned, the eternal blessing of spending eternity with the Lord in a totally new world (John 14:1-4; Rev 21 & 22). Next time we will look into the third part of the calling, becoming a disciple. Until then, enjoy your calling by enjoying your Savior.