

# PART 3 – EPHESIANS 1:15-23

## FOUNDATIONAL TEXT

**John 1:16-17 AMP** - *For out of His fullness (abundance) we have **all received** [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift. For while the Law was given through Moses, **grace** (unearned, undeserved favour and spiritual blessing) and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.*

That word in the Greek is ‘**Huperekperissou**’ - which means a ‘super abundant’ amount, you can’t even imagine. Grace has been heaped upon you, through the finished work of Jesus.

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 1 tell us?
2. Interpretation – The word of God
3. Application - How do apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 1?
4. Key Messages from this preaching

1. Revelation – What does Chapter 1 tell us?

**KEY VERSE** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

**Ephesians 1:3 NKJV**

- This book shows us how Great a God we serve, who God is and what he’s done – it shows us our inheritance
- Our calling is to be a son or daughter; a disciple, a follower of Christ, a witness, a fruitful branch, an ambassador, to live ready and expectant in preparation for His return; that is your calling. When we understand that calling, we live in the hope that we can live up to what God expects us to be and do
- God has blessed you in Christ already and Paul writes that the eyes of our understanding can be opened to receive what already has been given. That is the whole purpose of the Book Of Ephesians
- We are discovering that as Children of God, we were born rich/blessed when we trusted in Christ

2. Interpretation – The word of God

*“Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”*

**Ephesians 1:15-23 NKJV**

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<b>EPIGNOSIS</b>	<b><i>Greek word for – KNOWLEDGE</i></b>
<p>A deep personal, intimate knowledge. Paul says I don't want you to just know about God - which is knowledge - there is a whole sect that started during this time called the Gnostics and it became all about knowledge. It's not about knowledge. It's taking information, praying information, until it becomes REVELATION . You need to know through <b>revelation, Him, not just information.</b></p>	
<b>Verse 17</b>	<b><i>In the knowledge of Him</i></b>
<p>Paul prays that the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we can know him better [or older translations - in the knowledge of him]. Of all the things that Paul could pray for, this is #1 for him. Why? Because We can do all the work of God, we can do all the things that we want to do, but if we're not getting to know God better, what is the point?</p>	
<p>Within the span of 30 years, the church, planted by Paul has already lost its way</p>	
40A	Paul plants the church
60A	He writes the letter
Between 60-70AD	He sends Timothy
90AD	Book of Revelation. Jesus gives John the message that if you're not close to him, you will be taken out. That's not fear, that's a warning. The safest place is at the feet of Jesus.
<b>Verse 18a</b>	<b><i>The eyes of your understanding being enlightened,</i></b>
<p>Literally this means the eyes of your heart/understanding enlightened, not the organ of your heart. The eyes of the 'real you' where your real person is, the seat of 'your being', where your personality is, your spirit's there. That heart, the centre of your physical and spiritual life has eyes. Paul is praying that the eyes of you heart be flooded with light, Why? Because light brings understanding, light brings creativity, light brings colour. In light, colour is revealed. Your heart needs to be flooded with light so that you can see the world around you properly. Paul prays – 'eyes of our heart be flooded with light'. When we come to His presence, our heart gets filled with light. His present is <b>LIGHT</b>. 'Arise and shine, for your light has come' - we come to His presence, He floods us with light and three things happen:</p>	
2.	We get to understand the hope of his calling
3.	We get to live out the riches of the glory of His inheritance and
4.	We begin to live in the exceeding greatness of His power towards us [verse 19]

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Bible Verse	Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom 1:15-23
15	<i>"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,</i>
16	<i>do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers</i>
17	<i>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him</i>
18	<i>the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,</i>
19	<i>and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power</i>
20	<i>which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,</i>
21	<i>far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.</i>
22	<i>And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,</i>
23	<i>Which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."</i>

### 3. Application - How do we apply this preaching from Ephesians Chapter 1?

What is God saying to you out of the book of Ephesians Chapter 1 – Verses 1-15-23?

Chapters 1-3 are rich theological content regarding our *salvation and the blessings God has bestowed upon us*.

- **ACTION:** Pray for each other and ask 'Lord, speak to me, reveal this to me'
- **ACTION:** If you're trying to work things out yourself, you're going to get taken out. Paul prays this, 'pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation', so that you can know him better.
- How is your relationship with Jesus going? Is he still the pearl of great price for you, is He still the lover of your soul, is He still the one when you wake up, the first thing you think of, is He the one that you freely sacrifice everything to, is He the one you lay down your life for, is He still the one? Or have we become too clever, too callous; we've become too professional Christian-like and we can say the right stuff - but Jesus is nowhere near our heart.
- **ACTION:** if you are a member of Lighthouse Church, can you commit with Jimm and the elders, to pray this prayer over Lighthouse church until Christmas? – **Ephesians 1:15-23?**
- **ACTION:** Pray for revelation for the Church – simply put; God is not going to reveal himself if you never pray for God to be revealed to you

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- **ACTION:** We want God to touch people, are you praying? Jesus, we need you, no gimmicks, Nothing else – ‘Jesus we need you, come with your glory’
- **ACTION:** In humble obedience ask ‘God, can you reveal yourself to me? God through your spirit, can you reveal yourself to: [...and start calling out people’s names]
- **ACTION:** The father has chosen, us, adopted us, accepted us. If you wake up tomorrow and doubt your salvation [the enemy can cause you to] get out these notes and say:

‘Lord, I Thank you that you have chosen me’,

‘Lord, I Thank you that you have adopted me into your family’

‘Lord, I Thank you that you have accepted me in the beloved’, [‘I doubt, if you doubt your salvation or are feeling down and depressed, that if you say those three things over your life, you’ll stay depressed or down about yourself]. Why? Because they are incredible truths that we are going to live by.

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4. Overarching Messages from this preaching	
We are not meant to do this alone. The more we do it together as a church, the more we will flow.	When we all feed around God's word together as a team, as a church, something powerful happens – God reveals himself through his word by his spirit to us
We don't realise the gift Jesus has given us	We live as beggars and paupers when we should be living as sons and daughters
God wants to bless you – but for a purpose	The gospel is not a prosperity gospel and the Western Church has made the by-product of the gospel – 'physical prosperity'
Be known by your 'fruit' and your 'works' not your 'title'	Paul the <i>apostle</i> , referred to himself as 'scum of the earth'. When was the last time you heard an apostle of Christ refer to themselves like this?
It's not about titles, mansions, owning a Tesla and Face book likes	Unless we move away from 'celebrity' lofty, western culture, we will not have revival [or it won't last] because God will not share His glory with anyone
Jesus, full of grace, full of truth	Some people are full of truth and they hurt you with their truth because they're not balanced with grace. Some people are full of grace and they never can confront, it's just 'whatever happens, happens'
The love of money is the root of all evil	Jesus said 'if you love money above me, you are following the spirit of Mammon
God rewards those who diligently seek him, not those who 'casually enquire of him'	God rewards those who diligently seek him [not with salvation, we've already got that] but he rewards you with MORE OF HIM
Pray God's holy word back to him	God will confirm His word with signs and wonders because He will confirm HIS word – not your word
Revival starts on your knees	No revival has ever started by preaching, through worship, through leading, through mission, through outreach, through giving
Many of us believe a lie	That we are born that way, that we have a particular temperament, and that you can't change in the glory of God
Hell is the absence of hope, that there is no scope of you getting out of irreversible punishment under God	You can change, you can grow, you can have VICTORY over sin, because your heart is flooded with light and you live in the hope of your calling.
Some of us are playing with sin	Jesus has forgiven our sin, but if we entertain sin, we have disqualified ourselves. Not from being, but from walking in the inheritance God has for you
Wrong application of the grace message gives us a licence to sin	Jesus said 'deal with sin ruthlessly' don't tolerate it, if you tolerate it, it will dominate you. Sin doesn't make good company, its purpose is to destroy you, and anything else you are hearing is a lie from the pit of hell. Sin brings death- full stop - no excuses.