

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 11 November 8, 2022 – November 13, 2022

Unit 3: We are God's Artwork

Subject: Wisdom as Enlightenment of Heart

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

Key Verse:

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Enlightenment: What? (Ephesians 1:15-18a)**
- 2) Enlightenment: Why? (Ephesians 1:18b-23)**

Introduction:

Do you remember how the worship service open back in your day, where the deacons would line up before the congregation to offer prayer, the older deacon or chairman of the deacons would pray, and the other deacons would mimic the words offered by the elderly deacon. You see the elderly deacons knew that we (young generation) would need GOD, and a relationship with GOD if we were going to succeed in life. So, they openly prayed before us interceding on our behalf, in other words, they practiced spiritual intercessory prayer. These saints knew and appreciated the importance of prayer, that they were not ashamed to prayer for others with the same prayer every week. This helped the younger generation in knowing the importance of prayer, and how to pray for others as well as themselves. Now, the younger generation stands in the place to intercede on the behalf of others, a lesson that was taught by JESUS CHRIST, and observed over the years by spiritual deacons.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Enlightenment: What? (Ephesians 1:15-18a)**

It is of importance that one understands the fundamental process of operation of salvation. Paul wanted his readers to know the fundamental process of salvation and spiritual inheritance. Two fundamental principles of salvation: 1) The basic fundamental principle of salvation in JESUS CHRIST: the blessing of election, sonship, redemption, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Read Ephesians 1:3-14). Secondly, the method by which believers could understand and appropriate it all through divine enlightenment. Paul interceded in prayer for the Gentile converts to Christianity. The Gentiles faith in JESUS CHRIST, and love for all the saints, was heard and known of Paul, so, Paul continuously makes request for them and gave thanks to GOD on their behalf (Ephesians 1:15-16). Paul knowing of the Gentiles faith in JESUS CHRIST, and the love for the saints, prayed that they might know GOD personally and intimately. Paul's intercessory prayer was not for economic growth, successfully meeting budgets, or worship centers, but for a visible sign of

faithfulness to JESUS CHRIST and agape love for fellow Christians. Paul wanted the Gentiles to understand their spiritual riches in JESUS CHRIST they already possessed as GOD'S adopted children, Paul prayed that GOD the Father would give them (Convert Gentiles) spiritual enlightenment (Ephesians 1:17). Paul, now, knowing that as the converted Gentiles came to know GOD more, and more, spiritual insight would be needed to help develop them a deeper understanding of the blessings of their salvation and purpose. Now, just knowing about GOD is different than knowing HIM; knowing about GOD and knowing HIM says that there is a lack of spiritual discernment and direction necessary for living a Christian life. Paul requested GOD to open the eyes of the converted Gentiles hearts (Ephesians 1:18a).

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Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Enlightenment: Why? (Ephesians 1:18b-23)**

Now, that Paul had made prayer request on the converted Gentiles part for a personal spiritual enlightenment, he explained why this spiritual understanding is so importance to the believer's relationship with GOD. First, Paul, said that they needed to know the hope of their calling (Ephesians 1:18b). The hope of his calling refers to the completeness of salvation culminating with the believer's glorification and freedom from the presence of sin. The hope of glory attached to our calling should motivate one to live holy, obedient, and faithful lives, for HIS (GOD'S) praise and as a witness to the lost. Secondly, Paul wanted the converted Gentiles to know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18c). In other words, JESUS CHRIST inheritance in us and not our inheritance in HIM (JESUS CHRIST). It is good to know, that we are HIS (JESUS CHRIST'S) inheritance to be received by HIM (JESUS CHRIST) when HE (JESUS CHRIST) returns. Paul, last request to GOD on the behalf of the converted Gentiles was that they would know the extent of GOD'S power working on their behalf, Paul describes GOD'S power as incomparably great (Ephesians 1:19). Paul, says, that GOD'S power is exemplified through JESUS CHRIST'S resurrection (Ephesians 1:20). And through JESUS CHRIST'S ascension, kingship, and lordship (Ephesians 1:21-22). And finally, through JESUS CHRIST authority (Ephesians 1:23).

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Lesson Nuggets

- 1) **When we know the faith of someone in JESUS CHRIST, and the love of the saints they have, we should cease not to give thanks for that person and to mention him in your prayers. (Ephesians 1:15, 16)**
- 2) **Pray to GOD the Father to give unto them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of HIM (JESUS CHRIST): and to open the eyes of their heart. (Ephesians 1: 17, 18).**
- 3) **Pray that you may know what is the hope of HIS calling (Ephesians 1:18b)**
- 4) **Pray to know what is the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18c).**