

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 7/13-14 2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 1:15-20*

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 ptwente@gmail.com

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:

WE WILL CONTINUE IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

Type in the <https://> for the meeting you want to attend: If you have any trouble with logging in on the website – download the Zoom.us app from the internet, sign in, hit “join meeting” and enter the meeting number

87858644763 for Monday night.

85309150746 for Tuesday morning.

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS: (This is new and different from previous meetings)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763> for Monday night 7pm meeting # 878 5864 4763; hit join, then when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

7 AM TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS: (This is new and different from previous meetings)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746> for Tuesday morn 7am meeting # 853 0915 0746; hit join, when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

FOR PHONE: (please do not use more than one device at a time, such as your computer and your phone, as the feedback between the two devices causes echoing noises, which are disturbing.)

One tap mobile +16699006833, =1817880051# US (San Jose) +13462487799, +1817880051# US (Houston) Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 301 715 8592 US +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) +1 253 215 8782 US

7 pm Mon Meeting ID: 817 880 051 7 am Tues Meeting ID: 444504400

Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians Chapter 1:15-20*

"I Speak Jesus" Eph. 1:19 *"the exceeding greatness of His Power"*

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence, I speak Jesus. I just want to speak the name of Jesus 'Til every dark addiction starts to break Declaring there is hope and there is freedom. I speak Jesus. 'Cause

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire.

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over fear and all anxiety To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire.

Shout Jesus from the mountains, Jesus in the streets Jesus in the darkness **over every enemy** Jesus for my family I speak the holy name, Jesus! (2X)

Shout Jesus from the mountains and Jesus in the streets And Jesus in the darkness over every enemy And Jesus for my family I speak the holy name, Jesus!

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire. (2X)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within His presence. I speak Jesus!

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Summary of vs. 15-19

We have been given the tremendous summary of spiritual blessings given by God to every believer. The blessings are so tremendous, it's difficult to comprehend and believe them, that they actually are ours!

He has chosen us!

He has adopted us!

He has accepted us!

He has redeemed us!

He has forgiven us!

He has revealed God's will to us!

He has made us an inheritance!

He has sealed us!

He has given us a guarantee of eternal life!

Here we see Paul pausing to give thanks to the Lord Jesus for the believers, knowing two things: Their faith in the Lord Jesus. Their love for all believers!

Eph 1:15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

Eph 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

Two General petitions.

Eph 1:17 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,

Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

Three Specific petitions:

that you may know

1) *what is the hope of His calling,*

2) *what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

Eph 1:19 and

3) *what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward (in) us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*

Eph 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Eph 1:21 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.

Eph 1:22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Eph 1:15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

- He *heard* they are living the Christian life; had entered it and were continuing in it! What has given him assurance that they are Christians!

- What is this acid test, that we can test ourselves? *Your faith in the Lord Jesus* – your personal, individual faith in the Lord Jesus. This is the most vital thing of all – the central, vital, acid test.
- Also, *your love for all the saints*, Here are the two things that speak assuredly of you! These are the things I can thank God for you.

Eph 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

- **First – giving thanks for them-** being in like position – I thank God that this has happened to you. Praying for you constantly.
- **Second – then petitions** – that your understanding of these tremendous blessings may increase and you grow in your experience more and more in your Christian life.
- **First he pauses to remind himself of what he is going to do; to whom he is going to speak.** He does not kneel and begin to speak. **But he recollects! He meditates! He reminds himself of the One to whom he is going to speak!**
- If we only did that too, we would begin to pray more effectively, not so casually as to pray to my “buddy in the sky”! But not so formal and stiff, praying in a way where God is so remote, we can’t be in His presence.
- May we recognize the importance of the pause and the importance of recollection. **Everything should be put aside when you are turning to Him. Everything, everybody. Stop! Prayer is so important!**

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- **The apostle, as is his practice, prays to God the Father, not to Jesus Christ, not to the Holy Spirit!** Not making too much of this, but **it is important that the Bible speaks to us to address our prayers to God the Father, in the name of the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- Apostolic prayers are so helpful, as they represent the leading of the Holy Spirit. Notice the **way in which the Apostle prays to God!** We should observe and follow what he does here.

the Father of glory,

- What is Glory? The summation of all the excellencies, perfections, attributes of the Lord God Almighty Himself! His characteristic is glory! His essence is glory! We stand in amazement –
- ***The Father of Glory!*** Everything He does is glorious, magnificent, perfect! That is the One to whom we address our prayer! A giving and generous Father, not keeping His glory to Himself, but giving it to His Son!

- This is staggering! Because He gives His glory to His Son, **He is also ready to give it to us, being in His Son!**

may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

- After pausing, knowing who he is speaking to, he now offers a petition, which runs to the end of chapter. The **starting point**, the general petition, is the **most important of all**.
- He begins his petitions, **not man-centered, but God centered!** not with sanctification, but that they may be given *the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge* (personal, fullest possible to all believers) *of Him, (God the Father)*.
- He is addressing believers who have already heard these wonderful truths in vs. 3-14. They *have been sealed* with the Holy Spirit of promise and His guarantee, the earnest of their inheritance
- **But there is more!** That God would give them a knowledge of Himself, **the ultimate goal of Christianity**. There is nothing beyond or higher than that! To know God is indeed everything, which is why this petition is first!
- **The knowledge of God, not of what God does, but who He is -- a direct, personal and intimate knowledge of God Himself.**
- This knowledge can only be given by the Holy Spirit. The natural man can never attain this knowledge, no matter how smart or able he is. It's a task that is entirely beyond him. The world by wisdom knew not God, the first and most obvious lesson we need to know!
- The changing times, the advance of knowledge, **the condition of the natural, worldly man is completely irrelevant in this realm**. World conditions have nothing to do with it at all! **Man, at his best and at his highest, is completely ignorant and absolutely helpless face to face** with the knowledge of God. It is a knowledge which must be and is imparted by the Holy Spirit. Even then, man needs the work of the Spirit internally, upon himself before he can receive it.
- He now prays for them! Are we to offer prayers for people like this? Yes indeed! Conversion is not the end! It is the beginning, the first step, like when a child is first born! Paul, late in his ministry said, *Php 3:13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,*
- **Do you know God? Not things about Him. Do you know Him? Have you met Him?** Have you yourself sat in His presence? Does He speak to you? Do you know that you speak to Him? Practice the presence of God.

Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;

Eph 4:17-18 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, [18] having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

- To truly know God – having the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, we must have our eyes of understanding enlightened and empowered by the Holy Spirit. To have **the blindness, the cataracts removed, that light may be received!**
- Additionally, to have the blindness removed, we also need power. Like an unused muscle, we need to use it, energizing it. The Holy Spirit enables this to be done!
- As long as we are in this world of sin, we need this enlightening operation by the Holy Spirit, never taking a spiritual holiday! We need to pray constantly and increasingly for that enlightenment! We have not yet arrived, but need to continually progress
- ***2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*** Oh, that we might continually be increasing in our spiritual growth and understanding!
- Is your spiritual knowledge and your grasp of spiritual truth greater today that it was year ago? Ten years ago? It's like being led from chamber to chamber in a great mansion!
- Oh, that we might know God! That we might begin to cry out all the time where that I might find Him.

that you may know what is the hope of His calling,

- ***Hope***, biblically, means certainty! We should be certain about our hope, the realization that we have been called to those things and for those things. He is dealing again with this whole question of the assurance of our salvation!
- ***Calling*** – There is a general call - repent and believe. But this is not what is meant here, this is a special or effectual call. (***Rom 8:28***) *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*
- God, through the gospel by the Holy Spirit, has called certain people. People in whom the word of God has been made effective, powerful, coming as a command, which they find irresistible. They readily respond to it with all of their being.

- Therefore, the Apostle's prayer is *that you may know what is the hope of His calling,*
- You've been called with a heavenly calling, a holy calling. What he wants us to *know is the hope of His calling,* the assurance of it! The certainty of it!
- Peter said, *2Pe 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;* Are you certain of your calling?
- To be certain, we need to have the eyes of our understanding enlightened before he can get this. Part of the answer is in the "sealing in the Spirit". But there is more, or the Apostle would not be praying for them - *Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling,*
- *the hope of His calling,* Remember it's His calling! It's God who called you. I want to grow in the knowledge of God. I want to know this, that there is nothing of greater assurance than my knowledge of the character of God. I dare not trust my sweetest frame, because it's so changeable, but I can rely on the unchangeable character of God and His everlasting covenant, made with His own Son before the very foundation of the world, promised to me.
- What God starts; He always finishes! He who has begun a good work in you will complete it in the Day of Christ! Nothing can stop it. *Php 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*
- There is the certainty! There is that blessed **hope!** **If I have been called** effectually, I have been called to the end. If I am called in the mind of God, I am already glorified.
- I can have assurance of salvation; knowing that my calling and election are sure, having that sure and certain hope – to go forward steadfastly

what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

- This can be understood only with enlightened eyes, the *glory* is so marvellous we do not have words to describe it. Trying to put it into our language, would result in an unworthy conceptions of it. The superlative on top of the superlative.
- There is **nothing greater than the glory,** but he talks something even greater! **about the riches of the glory!** That is so transcendent in its glory, that we cannot have a true conception of it, but we are told the riches of His glory! Heaven is infinitely more wonderful than you and I

can ever imagine or hope – entirely beyond the reach of all our categories.

- **What is *the glory*?** The central part of the glory that we shall be with Him! (*Joh 14:1, 3*) *"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.* That is enough, just to be with Him!
- (*Joh 17:24*) *"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold **My glory** which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*
- Another thing, Paul was given a glimpse of it, there on the road to Damascus. He saw the face of the Lord and it was brighter than the shining sun! He never forgot it!
- (*2Co 12:4*) *how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.* The glory was so tremendous. But he saw it and never forgot it again, of a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
- While we are in this life in this world, there is a great process of separation that is occurring. God lays His hands on and apprehends those who are to go to this glory, this inheritance. They are called saints, those who are separated, set apart by the Holy Spirit. Set apart for God. All of us, right now, are either saints or sinners.
- Are you certain you are a saint, one of God's people? Make certain of it! Then, dwell on this. Read the Scriptures! Understand them! Say. That is what I am going to! That is the inheritance that has been prepared for me! That is how I am going to spend my eternity! How often do we spend our time doing that?
- **Set your affections, your heart's desire, upon Him and upon the things which He has prepared for them that love Him!** The crowning day is coming soon. There is a glory awaiting us which (*1Co 2:9b*) *"EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."*
- **The first "what - what us the hope of your calling;**
- **The second "what - are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"**

Eph 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward (in) us who believe,

- The *exceeding* (surpassing – beyond our power of comprehension) *greatness of His power* in Regeneration! Indeed it's such a great miracle that anyone could be born again. It can only be explained due to this surpassing greatness of this power of God! We believe by virtue of the tremendous power! To bring one soul to Christ demands the exceeding greatness of His power – without it, we are completely helpless!
- *1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*
- *I believe!* I am what I am by the grace of God! He'll continue it! He'll finish it! Until I stand before Him, perfect, entire, completely and cast my crown before Him, lost in wonder, love and praise!
- The Greatness of this power- piling superlative upon superlative, our language is inadequate
- *what is the exceeding* when I put all the greatest definitions of the world on top of one another, I still have not begun to describe the greatness of God's power! *greatness of His power toward (in) us who believe according* (by virtue of) *to the working of His mighty power*
 - Not sufficient yet, he goes on - *according to the working* (energy, permeating everything!) *of His mighty* (“strength” that overcomes everything) *power*, Energy, power in action. That comes from an irresistible force, from the ocean of God's might.
 - This eternal might of God to exert itself, overcoming all obstacles and resistances and doing the thing which God wills it to do! That might of God exerts itself and manifests itself.
 - Believer, do you realize that's true about you? You are what you are because of this everlasting might of God in you! He's working it out in you! We are His workmanship!

Eph 1:20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead

- **The Illustration!** Helping us understand, he gives us an existing illustration in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, which is a perfect illustration to what happens to us spiritually. Also because of our mystical union with Christ – when Christ was raised, we were raised with Him to live forever more!
- Peter says, (*Act 2:24*) *whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*
- In addition to all our own weaknesses, the thing we fear most is the power of death and hades! (*Heb 2:14*) *Inasmuch then as the children*

have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

- That by the Lord Jesus Christ being raised from death and from the grave and from Hades, He has given us this public demonstration and manifestation that the last enemy has been conquered!
- *(1Co 15:54b-57) "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY." [55] "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?" [56] The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- **Conclusion:** There is no opposition in Creation; or opposition in His providence. But the opposition in the power of death and hades, there is nothing that has overcome that like the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, our last enemy!
- *(Rom 8:38-39) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, [39] nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- The arm of His strength will complete this. His promise is Yes and Amen!
- Make certain of it! Then, dwell on this. Apply your mind to it! Read the Scriptures! Delve into them. Commit them to memory if you like. Understand them! Say. That is what I am going to! That is the inheritance that has been prepared for me! That is how I am going to spend my eternity! How often do we spend our time doing that?
- How can they? He is above them all! Far above them all! All are beneath His feet! He's got all the power. He governs and controls everything. He is the Head of the universe and I belong to Him! No devil or hell can ever pluck me out of His hand, nor any force nor might. In Him we are safe! We are secure! Our final destiny is assured and certain.
- Oh, may God by His Spirit open our eyes to these things. May we believers realize our inheritance! Dwell upon it! Meditate upon it! Read about it! Pray concerning it, until your heart is moved and overwhelmed!

Closing Prayer:

This coming week: Read *Ephesians Chapter 2*

