

Eyes of the Heart

Ephesians 1:15–18

Sonrise Church — Life Group Bible Study

Key Thoughts

1. The “**Therefore**” of verse 15 looks back to everything in verses 3–14. Paul gives thanks because the Ephesians’ faith and love show that the inheritance described in those verses is real in them.
2. Faith in Christ as *Kyrios* is concrete, not abstract. To call Jesus “Lord” in Ephesus meant putting Him above Caesar, and genuine faith always shows up in love for the saints (Galatians 5:6; John 13:35).
3. Paul prays for wisdom from above (*sophia*) and full experiential knowledge (*epignōsis*) of Christ. This is not just information but internalized, relational knowledge that has moved from comprehension to communion.
4. The “eyes of your heart” (*kardias*) refers to the whole inner person: intellect, will, affections, and moral compass. Paul is not asking God to enlighten the Ephesians for the first time. He is praying they would walk in the light they have already received.
5. Paul prays we would know the hope of His calling and the riches of His inheritance. We are His Bride and His special people, and beyond that, we are treasured. Christ extended His own infinite worth to us when He died for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8).

Discussion Questions

1. In verse 15, Paul gives thanks “after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.” Why are these two markers, faith and love, so important together as the evidence of genuine salvation?
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2. The word *Kyrios* (Lord) was Caesar’s title in Ephesus, and the Greek Old Testament used it to translate YHWH. What does it mean to call Jesus *Kyrios* today, and what “Caesars” in your own life compete for that title?
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3. Paul prays for *epignōsis*, full experiential knowledge of Christ, not just information about Him. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and truly knowing Him, and where do you sense Christ inviting you deeper this season?
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4. Paul prays the eyes of your *kardias* would be enlightened, that you would walk in light you have already received. Using the GPS illustration, where in your life have you been trusting your windshield over the voice of the One who can see further?
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5. Hope, as Paul uses it, is “a confident expectation of a future good, grounded in a promise from a faithful God.” How does biblical hope differ from wishful thinking, and which of the seven riches of the inheritance Pastor Chris walked through most stirs your soul?

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6. Paul says we are God's inheritance, His Bride, His special people. Then he goes further: though we are His, we are also treasured. Christ counted us worth His own life (Romans 5:8). What is the difference between being owned by God and being cherished by God, and how does each one shape how you live this week?
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Applications

1. **Pray Paul's prayer over yourself daily this week.** Each morning, ask God for the spirit of wisdom and revelation, and that the eyes of your heart would be opened to see the hope and the riches that are already yours in Christ.
2. **Walk in light you already have.** Identify one area where God has clearly shown you the way and you have been ignoring the GPS. Take one concrete step this week to obey what you already know to be true.
3. **Live as one Christ counted worth His own life.** Choose one specific person this week, a family member, a coworker, a neighbor, or someone in the body, and extend to them the same kind of worth that Christ extended to you.

Closing Prayer

Father, we thank You for purchasing us with the precious blood of Your Son, for sealing us with Your Spirit, and for giving us an inheritance that cannot fade or fail. Forgive us for living as though we were poor when You have made us rich beyond imagination. Pour out the spirit of wisdom and revelation upon us this week. Open the eyes of our hearts that we might see the hope of Your calling and the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints. Help us to walk in the light You have already given us, not by what our own eyes can see, but by the certainty of Your Word. And remind us, Lord, that we are not only Yours but we are treasured by You, worth the very life of Christ. Move us this week to live in that reality, for Your glory and for the building up of Your people. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.