

Peace, Love, and Grace: Final Thoughts from Ephesians

Ephesians 6:21-24

Key Thoughts

1. **Knowing is where comfort starts.** Paul cannot come, so he sends Tychicus to make all things known and to comfort their hearts. A comforted heart is one that knows what is already its own in Christ.
2. **Everything you have was received, not earned.** Chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, and sealed by the Spirit as the guarantee of an inheritance. We were dead, but God made us alive: mercy withholds what we deserve, and grace gives what we do not.
3. **The mystery was handed out, not hidden.** The Ephesians came from religions built on secrets, and Paul gives God's deepest mystery, that outsiders are fellow heirs of the same body, to the whole world for free. Grace is an asset, and assets are meant to be invested.
4. **The walk is ours; the worth is God's.** We walk worthy, walk in the light, and are filled with the Spirit, and the work of ministry belongs to the saints. The elders equip; every part does its share.
5. **The strength to stand and the love that closes the letter both come from God.** The power that emptied the tomb is the power we put on. Paul ends with peace, love with faith, and grace, in sincerity: the resurrection word, a love that does not wear out.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 6:21-22. Paul cannot come, so he sends Tychicus to make all things known and to comfort their hearts. Why does Paul connect knowing with comfort? What do you usually reach for when your heart needs comfort, and how does that compare?
2. Ephesians 1:19-20 and 6:10-11 use the same power words at the opening and the close of the letter: the power that raised Christ is the power we put on to stand. Where are you living powerless or like a victim this week, and what would it look like to put that power on instead?
3. Ephesians 2:4-5 starts in the grave: dead in trespasses, a corpse that cannot reach for help. Why does it matter that Paul begins there before he says "But God"? How should that change the way we talk about our good works?
4. Ephesians 3:6. The Ephesians came out of religions built on secrets, and Paul hands God's deepest mystery to the whole world for free, calling it an asset to invest. Where are we still treating the gospel like a secret to keep rather than an asset to invest?
5. Ephesians 4:1-3 and 5:15-16. It is our job to walk and God's job to make us worthy, and wisdom is skill at living what you already know. Where is the gap right now between what you can explain and what you can walk on a Tuesday?
6. Personal: Ephesians 6:23-24 ends with peace, love with faith, and grace, in sincerity, a love that does not wear out. Of Sunday's three charges (preach the resurrection to your own heart, cross the driveway, get blameless), which one will you do this week, and who will know you did it?

Applications

1. **Preach the resurrection to your own heart.** When fear rises this week, name the empty tomb out loud. The power aimed at you is the same power that raised Christ (Ephesians 1:19-20).
2. **Cross the driveway.** Someone near you is not okay, and you have decided not to know. Redeem the time and go find out before the week ends.
3. **Get blameless.** If your heart condemns you somewhere, settle it before the sun goes down. Do not carry into next week what you were never asked to carry.

Closing Prayer

Father, You chose us before the foundation of the world, and You have made all things known to us in Your Son. Thank You for the seal of Your Spirit, the guarantee of an inheritance we did not earn. We were dead, but You are rich in mercy and great in love, and You made us alive together with Christ. Strengthen us with the power that raised Him from the dead, so that we walk worthy of the calling, as children of light, filled with Your Spirit, standing in the whole armor You provide. Send us out this week to preach the resurrection to our own hearts, to cross the driveway to the one who is not okay, and to settle what our hearts condemn before the sun goes down. Give peace to Your people, and love with faith, from You, our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Let Your grace rest on all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.