

Series: Paul's Letter to the Ephesians:
Identity Theft (Who Do You Think You Are?)

Know What You Know

Ephesians 1:15-23

A Prayer for Knowledge of...

"For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know..." (vv. 15-18a)

1. Hope

"...what is the hope to which he has called you," (v. 18b)

2. Inheritance

"...what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints," (v. 18c)

3. Power

"...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." (vv. 19-23)

Implications

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. Have you ever gone from knowing something intellectually to knowing it experientially? From head-knowledge to heart-knowledge? From having an awareness to having a conviction? If so, share your experience with the group.

2. What was the main point of the sermon? Summarize it as simply and clearly as you can.

Going Deeper

3. Paul prays that God would give the Ephesians a Spirit-created awareness of what is theirs in Christ. Read John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16. According to these passages, what role does the Holy Spirit play in the Christian life? How should this influence our prayer lives?
4. Paul prays that the Ephesians would know (1) their certain future, (2) their value to God, and (3) the greatness of God's power towards them. Which of these truths do you find it easiest to believe? Which of these truths do you need to pound into your heart?
5. Paul says that the church is the "fullness of him [Jesus] who fills all in all" (v. 23). What does Paul mean? What Old Testament imagery is Paul using here (see 2 Chronicles 7:1; Isaiah 6:1; Ezekiel 43:5; 44:4)? How does this verse transform your view of the local church?
6. Tim Keller says that, "*We will not know God, change deeply nor win the world [to Christ] apart from community.*"¹ Do you agree? How have you experienced this to be the case?

Application

7. What is one thing you can do this week to apply what you've learned?

¹ *Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything – Study Guide* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010); 76.