



Gospel Triumph

Ephesians 1:15-23

Pastor Bryan Chapell

4-19-20

Key Thought: God's design is to multiply his beauty by the contributions of many lives. (Remember the monarchs)

Key Question: How do we rejoice in and fulfill the purposes of Christ for us when we struggle with extended isolation as well as feelings of uncertainty and insignificance during this pandemic?

Read Ephesians 1:15-23 The Apostle Paul shows us how to fulfill Christ's purposes by...

A Prayer of Personal Thanksgiving (v. 15-16a)

As Paul remembers his dear brothers and sisters in Christ, he sees their faith in the Lord and the resulting love they then have toward each other which stirs his own heart with gratitude to the Lord.

1) Who do you miss seeing from church that when you remember them—their faith in the Lord and love for you/others, your heart is stirred with gratitude to the Father for them?

- What about them do you want to thank the Lord for specifically?
- How does God use our prayers of thanksgiving for the faith and love we see in others to minister to our hearts? And to move us on mission for Christ?
- What is a thoughtful way you can let those, whom the Lord brought to mind, know God used them to encourage your heart?

A Prayer of Spiritual Revelation (v. 16b-23)

Paul prays for the believers, asking the Father to enlighten the eyes of their hearts. When our hearts are enlightened God reveals the emptiness of the idols in our hearts and points us to the hope, value, and power we have in Christ.

2) How is God using the struggles of today to break down our human strengths or idols and help us focus on His spiritual blessings? What good do you think God could possibly do in and through you as you focus on his spiritual blessings?

- What do you find yourself longing for or missing during our shelter in place order?
- Hope is confidence that what God is doing will work to a good end (Rom 8:28). What scripture or encouragement has God given you lately to strengthen your hope in Christ?
- As God's inheritance we know we are his treasured possessions. There is a richness in our relationship with him. Share some descriptive words or phrases related to the value God sees in us that would encourage a down cast soul to hear. Who might need to hear the description you created?
- How are you seeing God's great power working among his people even during this pandemic? What might he want to empower you to do this week for his purposes?

Q's for Kids: (Read Ephesians 1:15-23 together)

- 1) Who is somebody at church that you know loves Jesus and loves you too? Why do you think God put them in your life?**
- 2) Sometimes our eyes only see the hard things or scary things. Here Paul prays that his friends will see the hope they have in Christ, see that God treasures them, and see God's power. Where do you see God working even during these tough times? How does that encourage your heart?**