

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 13 (#912193)
WEEK 3 (912343)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 13 – As His Child, Persevere In Christ

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever felt like I can’t do it? I can’t go on. It is too much. It is too hard. I don’t have the strength. O Beloved, you do. You just don’t know it. You’ve got to go on. Don’t you know about the hope of your calling? You’ve got to go on. Don’t you know that you are God’s inheritance in the saints? You’ve got to go on. You’ve got power. We’ll talk about it today.

PART ONE

It is good Beloved, for you and I to look up, for us to realize that we spiritually are seated in heavenly places far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that’s named in heaven and earth were seated in heavenly places in Christ and with Christ. And that’s where your power comes from. Well I left you in our last program in Paul’s prayer.

And as we look at Paul’s prayer in chapter 1 what I wanted you to see was this. That prayer is very important and that when we pray instead of praying God bless everybody in the world like little children don’t let them be sick and do this and do that. We need to pray very specifically. And this is what Paul is telling the Ephesians that he prays for them when he remembers them and mentions them in his prayers. Now this prayer is very very important. He’s going to talk to us about prayer again at the end of chapter 3, which is very unusual for Paul. Because usually when he opens an epistle he says, “Grace and peace to you.” He tells them that he thanks God for them and then he tells them what he is praying for them. And basically Ephesians opens up with this eulogy of praise that goes from verse 3 to 14 in one long sentence and then in verse 15 through verse 23, chapter 1 we have this long long sentence of prayer. I mean it’s like Paul is so full it’s gushing over and there is no time for a period. There is no time for a comma and there’s no time to stop and capitalize anything because he is just full. So what is he filled with? Well he is praying for them that they would have the **“...spirit of wisdom and...revelation in the knowledge of Him.” (Ephesians 1:17b)** in the knowledge of who God is, in the knowledge of who Jesus is, in the knowledge of who the Spirit is, that God ordained Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three in one, all God, all having the same attributes, but each having a different office. And both the office of the Son and the office of the Spirit is to bring glory to the Father. And so you see Jesus who is the glory. We beheld Jesus’ glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. We see the Holy Spirit and we see that we are to glorify God in our body by the temple because the temple, **“...[our] body is [the] temple of the Holy Spirit....” (1 Corinthians 6:19b)** Well now let’s watch what happens in this prayer. In our last program I told you about marking “pray” and I told you how to mark “love” of course with a red heart. Now I want you to mark “knowledge”. I did not tell you that in our last program. And the reason I didn’t was I didn’t want to overwhelm you. I want you to get His

truth precept upon precept. I want us to have little bit here and a little bit there and to grow together. Thank you, my friend, for sitting down with me. You know God says in Hosea, **“My people [perish] for a lack of knowledge....” (Hosea 4:6a)** We’ve got to have knowledge of Him. And as you look at 2 Peter. As you go to 2 Peter chapter 1 this is what he says and it’s important for you to see knowledge. He says in 2 Peter, chapter 1 verse 2 **“Grace and peace...,”(2 Peter 1:2a)** This is his typical opening. I mean it was the typical opening of a letter of those days. Peter of course is writing this. And he says **“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus [Christ].” (1:2)** so I colored knowledge green. And it says **“Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His...glory and excellence.” (1:2-3)** Then you come down to verse 5 and it says **“Now for this very reason ... applying all diligence....”(1:5a)** In other words knowledge and the things that he’s going to ask them to add to their lives don’t just happen. It has to be a purposeful pursuit. Right now I’ve put on some pounds around my waist. I just indulged my flesh. The only way I’m going to get that off is by walking, and so I’m going to have to choose purposefully to get on the treadmill and to walk even though I think I’m so busy that I don’t have time for that. He’s talking here now about doing something very purposefully. And he says, **“Now for this reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control....” (2 Peter 1:5-6a)** Then he comes down and says in verse 8 **“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”(1:8)** Knowledge is important, and that, Beloved, is why I am so very proud of you for making this our time, day after day, Monday through Friday that you set aside a time and that we get together and we study God’s Word. It is so crucial. Well let’s go back to Ephesians,

chapter 1. He’s praying that they would have the “...**spirit of wisdom and...revelation in the knowledge of Him.**” (Ephesians 1:17b) Now the word for knowledge here is very interesting. It’s “epignosis” “e-p-i-g-n-o-s-i-s”. “Gnosis” is the word for knowing. It’s the word for having knowledge. “Epignosis” implies that this is an intimate knowledge, that this is an experiential knowledge. In other words this is something that you just don’t know, but this is something that you are participating in. This is something that you are taking and incorporating and living out this truth. And this is so vital. So what does he want them to know as he prays for them? Well in verse 18 he says “**I pray....**” (Ephesians 1:18a) and remember you’ve marked that the way we’re marking “prayer”. You say I forgot how. Well download the study guide. Just go to “preceptsforlife.com”. There’s a free study guide and you need to download it so that you know how you can study God’s Word for yourself, how you can discover truth for yourself so that you know that you know that you know. All right now. He says “**I pray...,**” Now watch what he’s going to do, “...**that the....**” (1:18a) He’s going to pray three things. And careful observation of the text, and this is what we’re trying to teach you to do, is observe, observe, observe. If you will observe, observe, observe then you know what, interpretation is going to fall into your lap. And interpretation is discovering what it means. Observation is: what does it say? Well the more you become familiar with the text, the more you observe then more and more truth is seen and you know because God says what He means and He means what He says. And many times what you do to interpret, to understand is you look at where that word that you’re marking is used within the context of the author’s writing in that particular book, then in other books that that author has written because they use words the same way many times. Or you then look at it in the broad scope of the Bible. We have a book “How to Study Your Bible” and in that we explain it in detail and it is not technical and I guarantee you it is not boring. You will learn a lot. This is a book that is used in Bible

schools, in Bible colleges around the country and overseas. All right now it's in multiple languages. Our Precept courses and studies are in over 67 languages. So, everybody, every way, anytime, any place, any age, any language, one message, the Bible and one method, inductive. Inductive means you discover truth for yourself. Well we want to discover now. So we want to observe the text and we want to watch this carefully. **“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know...,”** now watch, **“...what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward[s] us who believe....”** (Ephesians 1:18-19a) So watch. He is praying I prayed that. So that is a purpose. He says, [“I am praying”] something very very specifically. **“I [am praying] that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...that you [may] know...,”** once again, **“...what is...,”** (1:18a) So there are three things that he wants you to know here. He wants you to know number one, **“...what is the hope of His calling...,”** number two, **“...what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”** (1:18b) And number three the next verse, verse 19, **“...what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward[s] us who believe....”** (1:19a) Now I have been known, when you see a list like this; this is a list of three things, to put a one with a little circle over the first thing in the list, a two with a circle over the second thing in the list and a three with a circle over the third thing in the list. And so immediately I look down and I say okay, he's praying three things. He's praying that they will know what is, what are, what is. And that way you put this in your mind and then you begin to dig into these truths and find the awesome truth of what he's saying. It's truth that helps you go on. It's truth that keeps you from fainting. It's truth that says hey, you can make it. We'll talk about it right after this important announcement we want you to have.

PART TWO

Welcome back. What is the hope of His calling? What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints? And what is the exceeding greatness of His power? These things are loaded. And once you know these things then it enables you to persevere, to keep on keeping on, to not faint but to [“press on for it’s the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus”]. (PARAPHRASE, Philippians 3:14, KJV) It’s what kept Paul going and Paul knew it. And so Paul wanted them to know it. He wanted their eyes of their heart to be enlightened. He wanted the lights to come on. He wanted to take them deeper and that’s the importance of Bible study. You get in the Word of God and you learn and you learn and you learn. And listen as you learn truth and this truth rises to the surface you see it and you say, O, that’s awesome. And then because you’re observing the text carefully another truth comes to the surface and you say, I didn’t see that before, but now you see it. And it’s not something that you dreamed up or not something that you say God told you that has nothing to do with the text. It’s really there and that’s why we want to study this way. So he wants you to know what is the hope of His calling. Now we’ve looked at the hope of His calling. We’ve looked in verse 4 of chapter 1 that, **“...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we [should] be holy and blameless....” (Ephesians 1:4a)** So the hope of His calling is that we have been chosen by God to be holy and blameless. We see that the hope of His calling is that He has predestined us to adoption as sons, that that is our calling, that we have become a child of God, Precious One. That is our calling. The hope of our calling is, knowing that because God chose us, now listen carefully, because God chose us, not because we chose Him but because God chose us, because God, because “[God] **predestined us to adoption as sons....” (1:5a)**, because He determined before that we were going to be His child, because God forgave us our sins and our trespasses because God did it, because He’s

the One that initiated. He didn't say "Get your act cleaned up. Get your life in order and straighten up and stop your sinning and then come to Me and we'll see if you're going to be in My family or not." O no. When we were His enemy He died for us. Jesus died for us. ["When we were sinners, when we were helpless, when we were ungodly,"] Romans 5 says, ["Jesus died for you and me."] (PARAPHRASE, Romans 5:8) So the hope of His calling is this: I've been chosen by God. And because I've been chosen by God and because I've been predestined to become a child of God then I know that heaven is mine and I know that my calling is not just temporal, but my calling is eternal. That is the hope of my calling. Now as you look at that I want to take you to ah Romans chapter 8 and you will find many many scriptures that have to deal with the hope of our calling with the fact that we are children of God with the fact that we have this blessed hope within us, Christ in us, the hope of glory. That's part of that calling. And the hope of glory means there is a destination for us. Romans chapter 8 talks about life in the Spirit, talks about how we are set free from the law, the principle of sin and death which keeps pulling us down like gravity, but the Spirit enables us to soar. And so he says in verse 23, **"And not only this, but ... we ourselves, having [this] first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves...."** (Romans 8:23a) Now he's saying all creation is groaning. He says this in verse 21, so let me put you in context and forgive me. He says **"...the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."**(8:21) And this happens when there is the revealing of the sons of God. In other words someday everybody's going to know and it's going to be obvious and their mouths are going to shut and they're not going to be able to murmur or say anything because they see that you really are a child of God. That you belong to Him. ["And when they see that when the revealing is when this corruptible puts on incorruptible, when this mortal puts on immortality, when death is caught up in victory, when you and I are

raised from the dead and we see Jesus and we are like Him because we belong to Him and then all the world sees us then all creation is going to stop groaning and travailing because the curse comes off the earth.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 15:52-54) And then he says “**And not only this, but ... we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit....**” (Romans 8:23a) And the first fruits of the Spirit is exactly what he’s talking about in Ephesians chapter 1 verse 13 and 14, you having heard the gospel, having believed in your heart, having received the Holy Spirit, you have now the first fruits of the Holy Spirit. And this is what he says, “**...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**” (Romans 8:23) “**...the redemption of our body.**” And that’s what we saw in Ephesians chapter 1 verse 14. [“The Spirit is given to us as a pledge as a guarantee of the redemption of this purchased possession redeeming this body so that you’re redeemed as we learned body, soul and spirit.”] (PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 1:14) Now I’m saying as we learn. You say I wish I had learned those things. All of this is available to you on CD’s or DVD’s. You can get them. You can listen. You can watch. You can grow, so it’s available for you. It says “**...waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved....**” (Romans 8:23b-24a) Now hope is not, I hope it comes true. No, the hope that the Bible talks about is an exact expectation that God stands behind His word. He means what He says. He says what He means. He’s immutable. He’s unchangeable. He does not lie. And what He has promised will come to pass. So a hope is a certain expectation. In the Bible he says, “**For in hope for** [in a certain expectation] **we have been saved....**” We took God at His word and He delivered and we’ve been saved. It says “**...but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he[’s] already [seen]?**” (Romans 8:24) So we have this earnest expectation but we haven’t seen it yet. We haven’t fully experienced the hope of our calling. But we’re going to because this mortal’s going to put

on immortality. This body is going to be redeemed. And so he says for **“...we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we...eagerly [wait] for it.” (8:25)** So this is the hope of His calling. Now listen to what he says in verse 29 of Romans 8. **“For...whom He foreknew, He ... predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren...;” (8:29)** now listen carefully **“...and [those] whom He predestined, He also called...,” (8:30a)** This is the hope of our calling. **“...and [those] whom He called, He...justified...,” (8:30b)** He declared you righteous. **“...and [those] whom He justified, He also glorified.” (8:30c)** What does that mean? Hey, this mortal’s going to put on immortality. This corruptible’s going to put on incorruptibility. Hey, I’m going to walk streets of gold. I’m a child of God. Once a child of God I will always be a son of God because my salvation was His plan, His calling. He predestined it. He redeemed me. It’s all Him. And because it’s all Him I’m all His and that is the hope of my calling. Whom He glorified He justified, He glorified. That’s it Beloved. That’s the first thing that he wants you to know. That’s the first “what is”. We’ll talk about the second one in the next program.