

EPHESIANS

“Relational Fertilizer” (1:17-22) – Discussion Questions

Questions about the sermon? How did the Lord encourage you from this text this morning? How did the Lord challenge you from this text? Thoughts you'd like to share?

Thought for today: *“Often times our knowledge of God is neither deep nor intimate. If we are unaware of His eternal purposes, His great love for us and His incomparable power, we don’t really know Him. Knowing Him is what life is all about.”*

1. **KNOWING GOD:** Someone says, “Knowing God sounds like a difficult process. Why can’t it be easier?” Your response? Not only does God initiate a relationship with us, but He also wants us to grow in our knowledge of Him. Describe a recent circumstance, conversation, or experience that caused you to know Him better – more personally and intimately. How can a Christian develop and maintain a passion to know God?
2. **THE THREE:** Why is it important to know “what is the hope of his calling;” “what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints;” “what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe”? What are the practical applications of these things?
3. **HOPE:** Paul does not present an other-worldly, pie-in-the-sky theology; on the contrary, he views God’s work in the resurrection as a cosmic event that has changed the course of history. Has this hope “changed everything” in your life? Why or why not? What keeps you from centering your life on this hope?
4. **INHERITANCE:** The saints are God’s inheritance. God is excited about receiving you as his inheritance. How does this encourage you? How should this change the way we view our lives? How can we, as members of His Church keep ourselves under the lordship of Jesus in the way we live our lives in order to further bring God glory?
5. **POWER:** Which is more certain evidence of God’s saving power: performing miracles or a godly life (see Mt 7:21-23)? What are some evidences that you have experienced God’s mighty power in salvation? If God’s power toward us is so great, why do so many Christians fall into serious sin? How does knowing that Jesus is not only the Head of the Church, but also the One responsible for building the Church act as a safeguard for the Church?
6. **PRAYER & LIVING:** How does this passage invite you to pray differently? What do you think might look different in our prayer lives if they were shaped by the assumption that what people most need is a “God-solution”? Of the three realities for which Paul prays (hope, inheritance and power), which do you most need to embrace and experience right now?