

Studies in Ephesians

Lesson III

TEXT: Ephesians 1:13-23

¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in God's eternal plan? (vs. 13-14; see also Romans 8:1-16 and Galatians 5:16-25)

a. In our text, the Holy Spirit is the d_____ that g_____s our i_____ (vs. 14).

b. In your own words, explain this concept.

c. Does this cause you to doubt your salvation or give you more assurance than ever before?

2. What pointers can we get from the Apostle Paul's prayer that can invigorate our own prayers, in particular for **this** congregation?

a. What does he ask God for?

b. Paint a "picture" of God, based upon the words used to describe him in this passage.

c. What kind of power is available to the church? How does Paul describe it? (vv. 19-21)

3. Who is in charge of our church? In other words, who really calls the shots? (vv. 22-23)