

**THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS**  
**“We Are His Workmanship”**

Date: 5-12-24 Lesson: 4

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– Norman, OK



**THE TEXT**

**(Ephesians 1:15-23)**

(15) 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,

**(Lk 21:36; Ac 20:21; Rom 1:8-10; 12:12; Col 1:4; 4:2; 1 Th 5:17; 2 Tim 1:3)**

(17) that **the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory**, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of **revelation in the knowledge of him**, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which **he has called you**, what are **the riches of his glorious inheritance** in the saints,

**(Ex 28:3; Job 42:5; Is 11:2; Jn 9:1; 16:13; 20:17; Ac 9:18; 26:18;**

**Rom 2:4; 6:4; 8:25-28; 15:6; 1 Cor 2:10-13; 12:8; 2 Cor 4:4-6; Php 1:9; 3:14; Col 1:9-13,27;**

**2 Tim 1:9; Heb 3:1; 6:4; 10:32; 1 Jn 1:5-7; Rev 1:6; 3:17,18)**

(19) and what is **the immeasurable greatness of his power** toward us who believe, according to the **working of his great might**

**(Is 40:26; Php 3:21; Col 1:27-29)**

(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

**(Ex 15:6; Ps 8:5,6; 48:10; Is 41:10; Mt 12:32; 22:44; 28:18; Mk 16:19; Jn 3:31;**

**Ac 2:24; 3:15; 1 Cor 6:14; 11:3; 15:24,27; 2 Cor 13:4; Php 2:9-10; Col 1:16-18; 2:12,19;**

**Heb 1:4; 2:6-9; 10:13; 1 Pet 3:22)**

gave him **as head over all things** to the church, (23) which is **his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.**

(Jer 23:24; Jn 1:16; Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 10:16,17; 12:13, 27; Col 1:24; 2:9,10; 3:11)

## STUDY HELPS

### **FORMULA OF CONCORD – SOLID DECLARATION – ARTICLE 2 – Free Will -**

“[14] In a word, what **God’s Son** says remains eternally true, “For apart from Me you can do nothing” [John 15: 5]. Paul says, “For it is **God** who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” [Philippians 2: 13]. To all godly Christians who feel and experience in their hearts a small spark or longing for divine grace and eternal salvation this precious passage is very comforting. For they know that **God** has kindled in their hearts this beginning of true godliness. He will further strengthen and help them in their great weakness to persevere in true faith unto the end [1 Peter 5: 10].

[15] Here belong also all the prayers of the saints in which they ask that they may be taught, enlightened, and **sanctified by God**. By this very act they declare that they cannot get those things that they ask of God from their own natural powers. For example, in **Psalms 119** alone, David prays more than ten times that **God would give him understanding**, that he might rightly comprehend and learn the divine teaching. Similar prayers are in Paul’s writings (**Ephesians 1: 17; Colossians 1: 9; Philippians 1: 9**). These prayers and passages about our ignorance and inability have been written for us. They are not written to make us idle and remiss in reading, hearing, and meditating on God’s Word, but that we should first thank **God from the heart that by His Son** He has delivered us from the darkness of ignorance and the captivity of sin and death [**Ephesians 4: 8**]. Through Baptism and the **Holy Spirit** He has regenerated and illumined us.

[16] After **God (through the Holy Spirit in Baptism)** has kindled and caused a beginning of the true **knowledge of God** and faith, we should pray to Him without ceasing [**1 Thessalonians 5: 17**]. We should ask that through **the same Spirit** and His grace, by means of the daily exercise of reading and doing **God’s Word**, He would preserve in us faith and His heavenly gifts, strengthen us from day to day, and keep us to the end. For unless **God Himself is our schoolmaster**, we can study and learn nothing that is acceptable to Him and helpful to ourselves and others.”

## THE LIFE APPLICATION

Since you have spirit of wisdom and of **revelation in the knowledge of him**,

and the eyes of your hearts are enlightened,

what is the daily effect of you knowing what is the hope to which **he has called you?**