

# TRUE IDENTITY



## In Him We Are Empowered February 23, 2020

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup>I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I 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. <sup>18</sup>I pray 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 his holy people, <sup>19</sup>and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup>he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

### **WEEKLY SERMON REFLECTION**

- ◆ How did the sermon this week from the passage above speak to you personally?
- ◆ Why is that important to you?
- ◆ What part of this truth is the biggest challenge?

### **HEAD**

- ◆ What are two reasons that Paul gives thanks to God for the Ephesian believers? (Vv. 15-16) Why do you think these two truths moved Paul to pray?
- ◆ What specific things does Paul pray for in Vv. 17-19?
- ◆ What does the necessity of continual prayer for revelation indicate about the spiritual blessings in the lives of believers?
- ◆ According to verses 19-23, Paul prays that we will know the incomparably great power Christ has towards those who believe. How has God demonstrated His power? What does Paul want them to understand about God's power?



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*“The power Christians have is not intrinsic power, something they have in themselves, but a power that comes from God, defined by the resurrection of Jesus and His exaltation as Lord over every other power, both now and in the future. Because no other power can rival Him, and because in Him the fullness of God lives, Christians do not have to look elsewhere to find what they need for life. What they need is in Christ. This power, however, is not power in the abstract, it is relational power – power that is known because of being bound to the One in whom power resides.” (Klyne Snodgrass NIV Application Commentary, page 91)*

## **HEART**

- ◆ Paul prays that their eyes and heart may be enlightened, that they may truly understand these great truths. He wants them to know them at the heart level. This understanding involves a greater intimacy and experiential knowledge of the Lord. How do you explain personally embracing these truths?
- ◆ How should understanding God’s power fill us with an assurance of our salvation as a believer?
- ◆ How important is it for Christians to gain an appreciation of the greatness of God’s power and know that nothing is too difficult for the Lord to accomplish? Why?

## **ACTION**

- ◆ Reflect on the implications of Ephesians 1:15-23 for your own life. What have you learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in his gracious promises?
- ◆ Paul prays for hope, inheritance, and power. Which do you most need to embrace and experience at this moment? How will you pray specifically this week?

