

SERMON OUTLINE

GOD HAS A PLAN—AND WE'RE PART OF IT "God's Plan for the Believer" Ephesians 1:15-23

No. 2965

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Having blessed God for His blessings lavished on the Ephesians, Paul comments on their behavior and then launches into a prayer for their continued spiritual development, which gives us a clue to what God plans for believers.

I. Believers Should Behave in a Way that Is Noteworthy. vv. 15-16

- A. Paul had heard about them...
- B. ...because people were talking about them...
- C. ...because their behavior was noteworthy.
- D. They were demonstrating "faith in the Lord Jesus."
- E. They were exhibiting "love for all the saints."

II. Believers Need to Deepen in Their Knowledge of God. v. 17

- A. The place of prayer.
- B. The work of grace—"the glorious Father may give you..."
- C. The activity of the Spirit.
 - 1. Imparting "wisdom."
 - 2. Giving "revelation."
- D. The experience of knowing God better.

III. Believers Should Experience Enlightened Hearts. vv. 18-23

- A. The heart—the center of our humanity.
 - 1. The center of discerning.
 - 2. ...of desiring.
 - 3. ...of deciding.
- B. The enlightening of the heart.
 - 1. "Seeing" the hope of our calling. v. 18a
 - a. What exactly does it mean to be called?
 - b. To what have we been called?
 - c. In what way does this knowledge create hope?
 - d. This hope creates a sense of confidence.
 - 2. "Seeing" the riches of His inheritance. v. 18b
 - a. We have a rich inheritance in Him.
 - b. He has a rich inheritance in "the saints."
 - c. This knowledge creates a sense of significance.
 - 3. "Seeing" the incomparably great power available to us. v. 19f
 - a. The power exerted in the resurrection.
 - i. Defeating death.
 - ii. Conquering fear.
 - b. The power demonstrated in the ascension.
 - i. The place of honor.
 - ii. The seat of majesty.
 - c. The power expressed in the subjection of all powers.
 - d. The power invested in the "head over everything."
 - e. The power released through the living church.
 - f. This discovery creates a sense of competence.

Point to Ponder: There's so much growing to do, but how much am I doing?