



October 4, 2015
Celebration | 8:45 am
Elevation | 10:45 am
Pastor Matt Davis

We Have No Idea How Good We Have It Ephesians 1:15-23

We have been invited into relationship with a God who gives us every spiritual blessing





"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him." Ephesians 1:3, 17

We have been invited to know God intimately

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know..." Ephesians 1:18

- **God wants us to know the hope of His calling (past)**
"...so that you will know what is the hope of His calling..." Ephesians 1:18
- **God wants us to know the riches of His inheritance (future)**
"...what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints..." Ephesians 1:18
- **God wants us to know the surpassing greatness of His power (now)**
"...and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe..." Ephesians 1:19

About our invitation to connect with God and others...

- **Distorted pictures of the church:**
 -  The church as a gas station - fill up your spiritual gas tank when you're running low
 -  The church as a movie theater - entertainment, an hour of escape, in comfortable seats
 -  The church as a drug store - you can fill the prescription that will deal with your pain
 -  The church as a big box retailer - offers the best products in a clean and safe environment for you and your family

We have been invited to live today in the power of God

"...and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ..." Ephesians 1:19-20

- **The same power that raised Jesus from the dead**
"...when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places..." Ephesians 1:20
- **The same power that made all things subject to Jesus**
"And He put all things in subjection under His feet..." Ephesians 1:22
- **The same power that placed Jesus as the Head of the church**
"And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:22-23

Discuss Together:

Which distorted picture do you feel most closely describes how you tend to view the church?

What do you think is a better picture of what the church look like?

Digging Deeper:

When it comes to our distorted views of church, they have one thing in common - **they're all about me**. Fill me up! Entertain me! Take away my pain! Give me the programs I am looking for, for me and my family. This mindset is everywhere you turn in our culture. I don't know about you, but I don't have any particular loyalty to a gas station, a movie theater, a drugstore or a big box retailer. I move around looking for the best deal at the time. Christians who think about church in these ways find it hard to settle, and miss so much as a result.

If we look at the pictures God gives in Scripture it will help us understand what it means to be the church. Scripture calls the church the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) that extends Jesus' earthly ministry to today. The church is also described as a building serving as a dwelling place for God by the Spirit (Ephesians 2:22) and as the beloved bride of Christ for whom Christ sacrificed His life (Ephesians 5:25). Church is not about fulfilling our desires. If we can understand God's view of church it will help to shed unhelpful attitudes and pursue our purposes as the church.

Scripture provides us with several helpful analogies to describe the church and they all have one thing in common - **they all point us to Christ**. When you grasp that the church is all about Christ, you come to see the church in a whole new light. The gas station, movie theater, drug store and big box retailer are means to an end. They're not inherently valuable in themselves. But the church is not a means to an end. The church is an end in itself. With a couple of exceptions, God infuses the church to be His hands and feet that extend out into the world.

May our attitude toward the church exalt the risen Christ and model His sacrificial love for His church.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Read Paul's prayer for believers in Ephesians 1:15-23. What motivated Paul to pray for them?
2. Paul prayed for his readers to know God better. What does knowing God involve? How well do you know Him?
3. Why do we need God's power? Have you seen God's power demonstrated in your own life? How?
4. Which is a greater temptation for you: to live as if you are powerless and no power is available, or to live as if you have plenty of power without relying on God? Explain.
5. How does Paul's prayer compare with how you typically pray?
6. Which of the things Paul prays for do you most need to pray for? Why?

Next Steps:

1. **Go to the Athletic Fair in the Lobby today** and find ways that you can grow stronger together physically as we grow stronger together spiritually. Learn more at calvarylife.org/fitness
2. **Attend the next Mentor Meetup** Sunday, October 11 at 7:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby to help connect those looking to be mentors, and those looking to have a mentor over a casual evening of dessert. This is a great opportunity to meet someone and begin a discipleship relationship. calvarylife.org/discipleship
3. **Spend time in prayer considering your outlook on the church.** Which of the four distorted pictures of church do you find yourself attaching to? Ask God to give you His lens for what He is calling the church to be. Receive prayer at one of the Prayer Points during or after today's service.