



## Lesson 3: Why Can't You See It?

### Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul spent the whole first half of this chapter laying out the blessings that we have in Christ. Now Paul goes on to pray for something rather odd, he prays that believers would understand what it is they have been given, that they would understand what it is that God has done for them. But he just told them what God has done for them! Paul recognizes, and we should as well, that the blessings of God are something we can know on a basic, factual level without really understanding on a deep level.

#### THE PREREQUISITES FOR ILLUMINATION (VV 15-17)

- **Growth in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_** These two elements sum up the Christian walk. The New Testament often includes these two together as a summary for right living (1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:16; Colossians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 3:6; 1 Timothy 1:14; 2 Timothy 1:13; Philemon 5; Revelation 2:19).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paul didn't take it for granted that God would help Christians understand what Paul was trying to get them to see about God, so he prayed specifically that God that would open their eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ of God Paul taught the church at Corinth that only through the help of the Spirit can they understand the truth of God's Word (1 Corinthians 2:13-14). Sometimes this has to do with understanding, but often it means realizing that what God has said he said to you!



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## THE NATURE OF ILLUMINATION (VV 17-18)

- \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible this involves taking knowledge and applying it to life. It's taking theory and making it practical.
- \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible this is that which God has revealed by telling us, normally through his Word. The only way we would know anything about who God is and what he is like is if he chose to reveal himself to us, which thankfully he did!
- \_\_\_\_\_ is more than just a shallow knowledge of certain facts, but a deep insight into the person an plan of God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ carries the idea of "getting" an idea, or as we would say, "having the lights come on."

## THE CONTENT OF ILLUMINATION (VV 18-23)

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_**

Hope refers to a confident expectation, and "calling" refers to everything God has done when he saved us (see verses 3-14!) God's salvation should give us the hope we need to live our lives!

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_**

Ephesus was an incredibly wealthy city, which is probably why Paul mentions riches several times (1:7, 18; 2:4, 7; 3:8, 16). On this occasion, he actually says that believers are the inheritance of our fabulously wealthy God!

- The \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ within you**

Paul takes the most amount of time with this section, wanting Christians to know just how powerful the Spirit at work within them is. Paul takes four verses at the end of this chapter (vv 20-23) and piles up synonyms to describe God's power How powerful exactly is God? Powerful enough to do the unthinkable: powerful enough to raise Christ from the dead and seat him at his own right hand. Not only that, but God put all the demonic powers of the world under the feet of Jesus, giving him all authority (remember Ephesus was deeply entrenched in sorcery and witchcraft, explaining Paul's repeated emphasis on spiritual powers).

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