



Meeting Notes: Ephesians 1:15-23  
(February 17, 2016)

These notes capture our February 17, 2016 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

**Current Vision:** “2016 – The Year of Becoming Women of Worship Women of Witness”

**Memory verse:** Ephesians 6:11 – “Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (NKJV)

**Our approach:** Since Ephesians is a letter, we are approaching it as a form of communication, which means, there’s a **messenger** (the apostle Paul), a **message** (what we’re seeking to discover), and an **audience** (the believers in Ephesus). Thus, we are looking at “What did the apostle Paul say?” and not “What does it mean to me?” This approach help us put Scripture back into its proper context.

**Discussion Topic: Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)**

- **The message.** What did the apostle Paul communicate:
  - **V15-16:** He transitions from imparting knowledge to praying for the Ephesians by thanking God for them because he heard about their faith and their love for all God’s people.
  - **V17-21:** He prayed the Father would give the Ephesians:
    - The spirit of wisdom and revelation → why → so they may know Him better
    - The eyes of their heart to be enlightened → why → so they would know → what
      - → The hope to which He has called them
      - → The riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people
      - → His incomparably great power for them who believe
  - **V19-20:** He describes how great that power is—it “raised Christ from the dead and seated him at [God’s] right hand in the heavenly realms.

- **V21-23:** He describes Jesus' new position as:
  - Far above → what
    - All rule and authority
    - Power and dominion
    - Every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the age to come → which implies more than one age. What is the "one to come?" Possibly what happens in Revelations. Which led us to three possible ages: Old Testament, New Testament (or the church age), and Revelations (His return).
  - All things placed under His feet by God
  - Appointed by God to be head over everything for the church → what is the church → His body → the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way
- **Applying the message:** After breaking down the message, we took a closer look at how it impacts us:
  - **V15-16 – Being thankful.** We asked ourselves whom do we thank God for because we heard about their faith and their love for all God's people. As we discussed being thankful, we noted judging others can cause us to take people for granted, especially when we're trying to "help" them. **Takeaway.** Pray for people from a heart of thanksgiving!
  - **V18 - The hope to which He has called them.** The word "hope" implied to us there are different kinds of hope, so we looked up the definition for the original word translated "hope." We especially took note of Thayer's Definition, 2.a.1. "expectation of good, hope, in the Christian sense, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation."<sup>1</sup> **Takeaway.** We expect eternal salvation!
  - **V18 – Expectation vs entitlement.** We examined if expectation is the same as entitlement. We concluded hoping the eyes of our understanding are enlightened helps us understand the hope that there is or can be eternal salvation; otherwise, we don't know what we're working towards, and it's difficult to work hard if we don't know what the goal is. We do, however, know our works don't save us! But, we also know faith without works is dead (James 2:20). Thus, our works are an expression of our faith! Therefore, those present didn't believe expectation is the same as entitlement. **Takeaway.** Our hope is in our

---

<sup>1</sup> Strong's Concordance for the iPhone version 7.2.

eternal salvation through Christ.

- **V18 – “the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.** We looked at several versions to determine who inherits what. Who inherits seemed to be based on the translation. However, the NIV study Bible notes: “*his glorious inheritance in the saints*. Either the inheritance we have from God (see v.14, Col1:12) or the inheritance God receives, i.e. the saints themselves.”<sup>2</sup> With this, we couldn’t reach a definite conclusion, but we did lean more towards God inheriting us as saints. No matter which conclusion is accurate, we believe the apostle Paul was communicating a responsibility to be God’s holy people. After all, if He inherits us as saints, how can He inherit an unholy people? In the same vein, how can an unholy people inherit from a holy God? **Takeaway.** Whether God inherits us as saints or we inherit from God, we are called to be His holy people.
- **V19 – The eyes of our heart enlightened.** We concluded, “being enlightened” is the difference between knowledge and wisdom!
- **V19 – his incomparably great power for us who believe.** This is the same power God exerted when He raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms. If we’re the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, then we have that same power, because it’s all connected, and it’s to be used in us the same way it was used in Jesus – in us – in Him – to be used against the enemy. **Takeaway.** The same power available to us IS THE SAME power that raised Jesus from the dead AND seated Him at God’s right hand!
- **V21-23 - The visual representation.** To understand the narrative, we wrote these verses on the whiteboard (see attached) and discovered we had Jesus “laying down.” In other words, His head was on the left, His body in the middle, and His feet to the right. Therefore, we stood Him up by transcribing each position unto a stick man, so it would make more sense. This visual helped us see we are His body. As we act through Him, we should use His feet and not our own! **Takeaway:** We should be trampling the enemy under our feet!
- **Other nuggets from v21-23:**
  - He fills heaven because He is seated at the right hand of God. He fills the earth, because He lives in us. He fills Hell because He’s taken dominion. For the first time, Psalm 139:8 (NKJV) made sense: “If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.” **Takeaway.** Ephesians 1:23-24 explains how Jesus is everywhere all the time!

---

<sup>2</sup> NIV Study Bible, (Grand Rapids Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985).

- **Preparation and peace.** Knowing everything is under the feet of Jesus and we are His body reminded us of our shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace. Now that we understand peace relates to two working together as one, we saw how our preparation occurs in our heart! We are the body of Christ, and the heart is found in the body! **Takeaway.** Our preparation of peace occurs in our heart.
- **Knowing and understandings.** During our study, we were mindful of the words chosen, because every word was chosen for a reason. We also noted there's a difference in *knowing* what the words are and *understanding* what the words are. **Takeaway.** Just because we know what word was used, doesn't mean we understand the word!
- **Understanding Biblical honor.** We discovered we've gotten honor and respect confused as it relates to our parents. The word translated "honor" as it refers to our parents means "to *prize* that is *fix* a valuation upon; by implication to *revere* (Strong's G5091). In other words to honor someone is to value them! **Takeaway.** Just like the apostle Paul was addressing the Ephesians and why he was thankful and praying for them, we need to know why we're thankful for those in our life and pray for them from a thankful heart instead of being worried!
- **Praying for God's protection.** We discussed praying for God's protection when we know we're weak in an area. This brought to mind, 'lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'" We even had testimony of being able to watch God perform His will in our lives. Even when we don't know the exact Scripture, the Holy Spirit knows and intercedes for us. **Takeaway.** Watching God work in our lives is what His incomparable power looks like in the here and now.

**Closing the evening.** We closed the evening with what we took away from the message communicated.

**Looking Ahead:** Over the next several weeks, we have our first social, Night of Prayer, Raising Godly Women, and a scheduled night off. We will resume our study in Ephesians on April 13, 2016.

**Closing:** We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

*If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at [wow2@wow2women.com](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site, [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).*

## ATTACHMENT 1: How Jesus is Described in Ephesians 1:21-23

