



Ephesians 1:18

His Inheritance

“I pray also 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 the saints...” Ephesians 1:18

The Church in Ephesus

We know more about the church in Ephesus than any other Church in the New Testament. From its glorious beginning in Acts 19 to the time when its spiritual vitality began to wain in Revelation 2:1-6, we have a life-span of insight into this body of believers.

1. Acts 19:1-12 accounts for God's moving in Ephesus and a turning point for the entire province of Asia. The language used in this account to describe what God was doing through Paul and the Ephesian Church points to supernatural origins. The phrase we translate "extraordinary miracles" describe healings and deliverances which had never been seen before in the city. They were extraordinary, not to be duplicated by mortal men.
2. Acts 19:13-22 - Luke describes for us the consequence of such displays of the power of God. As is the case in any movement of God, counterfeit ministry began to surface in Ephesus. Do to its origin in the flesh, these attempts to replicate what God was doing through His people failed publicly. As a result, fear and reverence for the Holy Spirit surfaced in the city.
3. Acts 19:23-41 - What began as a revival for the city of Ephesus spread throughout the entire region. This movement was not only testified to by the Church, but by even those who apposed the movement of God. Luke records for us in verses 23-27,

- “About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: “Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. *And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.*”

4. The movement of God through the church in Ephesus sparked a revival that spread throughout the entire region of Asia Minor. Consequently, all Churches that surfaced in this region during this period of history benefitted from the Church in Ephesus.

5. Acts 20:16-38, 1 & 2 Timothy and Revelation 2:1-6 - Other portions of the New Testament give us further insights to the ministry, impact, and health of the Ephesian Church. The above portions of Scripture are recommended for further study of this body of believers.

Paul's emphasis on Identity

Paul covers several elements of the Christian life in his letter to the Ephesian Church, but they all have their foundation in being identified "in Christ." We refer to this foundation as our identity in Christ. Without knowing who we are in Christ, we cannot know our value as Children of God in this physical world.

Our identity "in Christ" is so important for Paul, that he uses language like "in Him," "in Christ," and "through Jesus Christ" 12 times in the first 14 verses of his letter. For Paul, the most important aspect for every Christian is to know who that have become when they became "saved." We are new, we are cleansed, and we have all the benefits and privileges that Jesus Himself has in His Father's Kingdom.

The Heavenly Realms

Another significant phrase Paul uses in this letter is *The Heavenly Realms* - 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; and 6:12. Our identity as children of God comes from us being seated with Christ in the Heavenly Realms. (Ephesians 2:6)

Our authority, gifting, and value is not found in our physical bodies (fleshly talents and abilities), but in our being seated in Christ in the Heavenly Realms. To be seated "in Christ" is Paul's way of saying that where Jesus sits in authority and power over EVERYTHING God has created, because of His triumphal death and resurrection, those of us who have received salvation through belief in Him are

now called children of God and have the same power and authority as He does. Jesus won the war for us and now we have victory in Him. We no longer have to be oppressed and persecuted by demonic spiritual beings. Jesus has given His victory to His brothers and sisters who are seated with Him in The Heavenly Realms.

For more on The Heavenly Realms, please visit our web site, and under Resources, click [The Heavenly Realms](#).

Our Inheritance - Ephesians 1:18

1. Ephesians 1:3-14 - Paul opens his letter with our chosen status as children of God seated in Christ. He expounds on all that comes with being brought into Christ - blessed, chosen, and predestined. I would encourage you to investigate further these verses.
2. Ephesians 1:18 - 2:6 - Paul continues expounding on our identity in Christ by highlighting two specific areas - Inheritance and Power. This study will focus on the first of these - *Inheritance*.
3. v18 - Paul prays for the believers in Ephesus that the "... eyes of your heart may be enlightened."
 - Paul knows, as we do, that the human heart does not have eyes. His language here has spiritual meaning. Consistent with the spiritual implications of being seated in *heavenly* places, Paul speaks here of spiritual sight. Note his reference to "enlightened" in the verse.

- φωτιζω - Translated “enlightened,” this term refers to one understanding or perceiving something. In this context, it refers to spiritual perception, or spiritual sight.
- Paul prays for the children of God in Ephesus to have spiritual insight so that they can know *the hope to which they’ve been called*. This *hope* is the inheritance and power we have as believers and saints.
- Inheritance
 - The significance of this inheritance in which we as children of God possess is that it is His inheritance. As children of God, we do not receive what we deserve, but what Jesus deserves.
 - The significance of *His inheritance* cannot be overstated. When we believe in Jesus, He not only forgives and redeems us, but rewards us with His own inheritance.
 - Rights & Privileges in the Inheritance
 - We are not only forgiven and cleansed by His blood, but made righteous and new. (1 John 1:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - We are returned to right standing with God the Father. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
 - We can enter into God’s presence Boldly! (Hebrews 4:16)

- We can call Him Abba (Papa), the same term Jesus Himself uses when speaking to the Father. (Galatians 4:4-7)
- We share in His victory.(2 Corinthians 15:56-58)
- We sit in authority over the Angelic, just as He does. (1 Corinthians 6:1-3)
- We have the same Spirit that dwelt within Him. (Galatians 3:26-4:7)
- We are sons and daughters of the Father (John 1:12-13; Galatians 3:26-29) because of Jesus, The Only Begotten Son (John 1:14)
- We will do what Jesus has been doing - and even great things than He did! (John 14:12-13)
- As children of God, we are no longer sinners, but saints. We are spiritual royalty.
- If we are going to impact our world as the Father desires and as Jesus foretold, we are going to have to embrace who we are in Christ and live with the confidence that God has not left us deficient.

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

John 14:12

“We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?”

Hebrews 2:1-3a

“This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

Hebrews 2:3b-4