

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 1:18-20

Glorious, Rich Hope in Christ

by Bob DeWaay

June 24, 2018

True Light Brings Hope in Christ

Ephesians 1:18a (LEB)
(the eyes of your hearts having been enlightened), so that you may know what is **the hope of his calling**,

- Before we had no hope (Ephesians 2:12)
- This calling is the internal call
- Christian hope is eternal hope and is secure in Christ

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A Crescendo of Glory

- **what is** the hope of his calling
- **what are** the riches of the glory of his inheritance among the saints
- **what is** the surpassing greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty strength which he has worked in Christ

There are three parallel statements beginning with "tis" = "what is"
The 2nd and 3rd are progressively longer

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His Inheritance in the Saints

Ephesians 1:18b (LEB)

what are the riches of **the glory** of his inheritance among the saints

- Inheritance is “*kle_ronomia*” which refers to being God’s “lot” (Eph. 1:11; Deut. 9:29)
- The “glorious wealth” is among the saints (Jewish and Gentile believers)
- We are God’s lot because of being adopted sons (Eph. 1:5)

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God’s Mighty Power Toward Believers

Ephesians 1:19 (LEB)

and what is the surpassing greatness of his **power** toward us who believe, according to the **working** of his **mighty strength**

- Paul piles up various terms for power
- The point is that they need not fear the hostile powers
- This is only true for believers

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The Royal Enthronement

Ephesians 1:20 (LEB)

which he has **worked** in Christ, raising him from the dead and **seating him at his right hand in the heavenly places**

- Jesus’ resurrection and ascension show the truth of Paul’s power statement (vs 19)
- This alludes to the royal enthronement of Psalm 110:1
- The ‘right hand in the high heavens’ is the highest place of honor and power

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Implications and Applications

- Conversion is going from darkness to light
- God cares about us, fate does not!
- God’s power is expressed through His working in us and for us

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From Darkness to Light

Hebrews 10:32, 33 (NASB)

But remember the former days, when, **after being enlightened**, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

- **Those in darkness hate the light and consequently hate those who walk in it**

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He Cares for You

1Peter 5:7 (LEB)

casting all your cares on him, because **he cares** for you.

- God personally cares for each one of His adopted children and guards us
- The pagans look to “fate” which is fickle
- The universe (pantheism or panentheism) lacks the necessary qualities of deity
- “Casting” means to throw something upon
- “Cares” could be translated “anxiety”

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Carry Out Gospel Implications

Philippians 2:12 (HCSB)

So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

- Motivation for living out the gospel
- We need to be in awe of God who saved us unworthy sinners through Christ
- “Work out” is imperative in the Greek

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God Is at Work

Philippians 2:13 (HCSB)

For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good **purpose.**

- We “work out” because God is “working in”!
- “Good purpose” is *eudokia* which is found twice in *berakah* of Ephesians 1:3-14
- Since the awesome God made us His children, He will accomplish His good pleasure for His glory by changing us

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