

The Joy of the Church
Ephesians 1:15-23

I. Intro

- A. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday!
 - 1. We believe life is sacred from the womb to the tomb.
 - 2. We believe every human life is worth protecting and investment.
 - 3. 49 years ago, the Supreme Court ruled, last year they overturned that ruling giving the responsibility back to the voters to decide.
 - 4. The fight for life is not over, it has just entered a new chapter.
 - 5. I pray that we are a people that do not compromise regarding life:
 - a) That we vote our conscience and Biblical conviction
 - b) That we support agencies on the front lines in this battle.
 - c) That we minister to all people, even those we find ourselves in disagreement with.
 - d) That we are compassionate representatives of Christ.
- B. Big picture week: we will look at the details of this paragraph in the weeks to come.
- C. Paul gives thanks for the church's faith, and kind gets excited!
 - 1. This paragraph is actually just 2 sentences
 - 2. So we see Paul's personality mixed in to this text as he gets loose with his quill pen.
- D. In the greek:
 - 1. Verses 3-14, and 15-23 are each one sentence.
 - 2. Some would call Ephesians 1:3-14 the longest sentence, but it is broken up into several sentences in most modern translations.
 - 3. Verses 15-21 are one sentence in the ESV, there is no break in thought, just additions to the thought.
 - 4. So chapter 1 is 3 sentences in the greek writing of Paul. (Really 2 sentences because the introduction is not really a sentence.)

II. Text

- A. For this reason:
 - 1. Chosen by God
 - 2. Sealed with the Spirit
- B. Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in knowledge of Him
 - 1. The prayer of a minister of the gospel
 - 2. That the followers of Christ prosper in the faith, and grow closer to the Lord
- C. Eyes of the heart enlightened:
 - 1. To the hope to which he has called you
 - 2. To the riches of the inheritance
 - 3. Immeasurable greatness of His power
- D. This power is most obviously seen in the resurrection of Christ
- E. This power is also seen in the continued work of Christ!

III. Points

- A. The Hope to which he has called you
 - 1. There is no greater Hope than the Hope we have in Christ
 - 2. Hope is a WORD OF POWER:
 - a) Selling something online, the negotiations can sometimes go a funny direction.
 - b) Ask \$100 for something, expect to be offered less.
 - c) Then you counter their offer...
 - d) Then they make an offer... and add the magic word...CASH
 - e) I'm not sure what other form of currency we were dealing in, but Cash was kinda implied!
 - f) Deal done, the word of power: CASH
 - 3. We are called to hope! (A word of power!)
 - a) Proclaim hope

- b) Remind others of our hope
 - c) Walk in hope
 - 4. Hope is faith with confidence, and that is what we have.
 - a) We are not people left to step out in blind faith with every step
 - b) We are people that have been blessed with the promised Holy Spirit!
 - c) That truth OPENS THE EYES OF OUR HEARTS
- B. The riches of the Inheritance
 - 1. You are brought into the family, and given an identity that shows the amazing grace we celebrate!
 - 2. I am a child of God, a joint heir with Christ!
 - a) Romans 8:12-17
 - b) 12 So then, brothers,[e] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons[f] of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
 - 3. God rescued me, and I’ve not gotten over it!
 - 4. My identity is with Christ forever!
 - 5. What do you get with this inheritance:
 - a) Confidence
 - b) Correction (Its a good thing)
 - c) Challenges (suffering produces perseverance)
- C. The Immeasurable greatness of His power.
 - 1. That which is immeasurable...
 - a) Sand on the sea shore? Maybe...
 - b) Hairs on your head? Actually, they are already numbered and God knows the number.
 - c) Speed of a toddler when they have been told to get something out of their mouth? Likely
 - 2. The GREATNESS of GOD has no limit, and is not lacking anything.
 - 3. The Power of God has been on display in many ways, and today can be seen in the church.
 - 4. You are one of the representatives that demonstrate the POWER of GOD!
 - 5. GOD is GREAT in POWER!
 - a) Not lacking anything
 - b) My mind cannot fully comprehend the greatness of His power, but that does not keep me from resting in it.

IV. Close