

## What Paul Wanted The Ephesians To See

In reading Paul's epistles to the different churches, you can feel how much he cared for them and wanted the best for God's people. In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul prays for them and he wanted their eyes to be enlightened to two important principles that we need to know today.

Paul wanted them to know "the hope of his calling" (Ephesians 1:18). Peter also mentions this in 1 Peter 3:15 when he says, "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." What is this hope that we ought to have in us? The hope is knowing that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God and that He came down to save us from our sins through His death (Romans 6:3-7). That hope is the faith that we have in our God even though we cannot see Him directly (Hebrews 11:1). That hope is confidence that if we live faithfully to the day we die as God has commanded us, then we will have that great reward of Heaven (Revelation 2:10).

Paul also wanted them to know "the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18). What is this inheritance that we obtain? Peter tells us what it is in 1 Peter 1:4 which says, "To obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you." We sing a hymn titled "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be" along with many others in anticipation of going there one day. Heaven will truly be worth it all, but it's not going to happen for everyone. In Matthew 25:31-46, we have Jesus telling us what will happen on Judgment Day. He says, "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say

to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

If you were to die today, where do you think you would end up? If you haven't done what God has commanded you to do and become part of the body of Christ through baptism, then you must do it before it's everlasting too last. We all want to go to Heaven, but without hope and obedience, we will never make it.

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