May 8, 2024

Our Spiritual Riches Ephesians 1:15-19

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better, I pray 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 his holy people, and his incomparable great power for us who believe.

Charles Spurgeon published a devotional book called *A Checkbook on the Bank of Faith.* The daily devotional described a promise from the Bible. He said that each promise was as good as money in the bank to anyone who would claim it by faith. However, unlike a bank account, our spiritual riches have no limits because they come from the wealth of God.

Paul says that he has heard about the Ephesians' faith in the Lord Jesus. That must mean that someone had told Paul about their faithfulness and obedience to Jesus. Paul also mentions their love for all of God's people. Their spiritual wealth was being used not for their glory, but to glorify God. What a glowing report of the church at Ephesus!

Then Paul tells the Ephesians that he keeps asking that God would give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that they may know God better.

The first purpose of spiritual possessions was to bring God glory. Now the second purpose is for the believers to gain knowledge of God. This spirit of wisdom and revelation comes only from spending time with God and His Word.

It takes discipline and time. Paul ends this section of Scripture by praying for the Ephesians – and us. He prays that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope and the riches of God as well as God's power. Just think of the possibilities ahead if we tapped into the riches and power God offers to us!

Prayer: Our Gracious and Loving God, we pray to claim these spiritual riches for ourselves and our churches. In this season, may we find deeper faith in Jesus, a greater love for others and a greater measure of Your Spirit. We pray for the hope to which You call us, the riches of the inheritance that You promise us, and the power You give to those who believe. Amen.

Sharon Miller Warwood United Methodist Church, Wheeling, WV Lay Leader and Delegate to Annual Conference