



Growth Group Questions
September 20, 2026
“Be Attentive”

CONTEXT

Paul moves from praise to prayer. He has heard of the Ephesians faith in Jesus and their love for the saints, and he responds with thanksgiving. Prayer is the natural outworking of Pauls’ ~~sc~~What God has done should lead not only to knowledge but also to worship and prayer.

Paul prays that God would give the believers “a spirit of wisdom and revelation.” The issue is not just gaining more knowledge but seeing more clearly what God has already done. Christian maturity involves having the “eyes of the heart” opened so that we can start to see the world differently because of what God has done in Jesus.

In verses 18-19 Paul names three things he wants the Ephesians to know: the hope of God’s calling, the riches of God’s inheritance, and the greatness of God’s power. That power we receive is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. The resurrection means God’s promised future has already broken into the present. We can live with Christ’s power because of what the resurrection accomplished for us.

Christ is now seated above every “rule and authority and power and dominion.” In a place like Ephesus, where people were surrounded by all sorts of claims to power, those words would have mattered. Paul is saying that none of those political or spiritual powers has the final word. Jesus is Lord over both the present age and the age to come.

The passage concludes by connecting Christ’s rule directly to the church. Christ is the head, and the church is his body. Christ intends for his life and rule to become visible through his people. The church is the place where God’s work of bringing heaven and earth together begins to take shape in the world.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[a] toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God^[b] put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,^[c] ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

QUESTIONS

1. In Ephesians 1:18-19, the Apostle Paul prays that Christ's followers might grow in wisdom so that we can know three things. The first of these things is "the hope to which He has called you." What does Paul mean by this?
2. The second thing for which the Apostle Paul prays is that we might know the "riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints" What does this mean?
3. The third thing for which the Apostle Paul prays is that we might know God's "incomparably great power for us who believe." What does this say to you?
4. Pastor Sheri stressed that it is important for us to not just know about God, but to know God. What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God, and why is this important?
5. Pastor Sheri pointed out that the Apostle Paul did not pray for the circumstances of the people in the church at Ephesus to change, but that their perspectives would change. What can we learn from this?
6. The title of this week's sermon is "Be Attentive." What does it mean to be attentive?
7. How does attentiveness display itself in real life? What does it look like to be attentive?
8. What does it mean to be attentive to God?
9. How can we grow in attentiveness to God?

PASTOR CHERI'S TWO CHALLENGES

1. Challenge: What is the Holy Spirit leading you to focus on this week?
2. Prayer Practice: Attentiveness