

1. Happy New Year! Tell others about LifeLines!
2. LifeLines for 1/16 will be Psalm 16:11.

LifeLines January 9, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

Ephesians 1:18

So that with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints,

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT (For *extra credit*, read Ephesians 1:15-19, five times. For *extra, extra credit*, read Psalm 103! How does Psalm 103 relate our LL verse?)

This section of Paul's letter to the members of the church at Ephesus is part of a prayer for their wisdom, revelation & enlightenment. These folks are already believers, & Paul wants them to move to a fuller understanding of their blessings as believers. The same can be said of most Christians today. Most have only a superficial grasp of the "riches of glory" to which we are beneficiaries. Do you agree or disagree? Salvation & eternity are among these riches. These verses celebrate the value of our salvation in Christ.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS

AMP

And (I pray) that the eyes of your heart (the very center & core of your being) may be enlightened (flooded with light by the Holy Spirit), so that you will know & cherish the hope (the divine guarantee, the confident expectation) to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people).

ESV

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints,

GNT

I ask that your minds may be opened to see His light, so that you will know what is the hope to which He has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings He promises His people,

GW (God's Word Translation)

Then you will have deeper insight. You will know the confidence that He calls you to have & the glorious wealth that God's people will inherit.

MSG

That's why, when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus & your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you – every time I prayed, I'd think of you & give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask – ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory – to make you intelligent & discerning in knowing Him personally, your eyes focused & clear, so that you can see exactly what it is He is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life He has for His followers, oh, the utter extravagance of His work in us who trust Him – endless energy, boundless strength!

NCV (New Century Version)

I pray also that you will have greater understanding in your heart so you will know the hope to which He has called us & that you will know how rich & glorious are the blessings God has promised His holy people.

NIV

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,

NLT (New Living Translation)

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called – His holy people who are His rich & glorious inheritance.

NLV (New Life Version)

I pray that your hearts will be able to understand. I pray that you will know about the hope given by God's call. I pray that you will see how great the things are that He has promised to those who belong to Him.

TLB (The Living Bible - a paraphrase, not a translation)

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future He has called you to share. I want you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ's have been given to Him!

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

So that with the eyes of your heart enlightened... Our world may seem to be dominated by evil as worldly influence grows stronger, trying to blind us to the truths of God & our faith. There is a *spiritual* seeing & hearing beyond *natural* seeing & hearing just as there is spiritual discerning which is beyond natural reasoning. This begins happening when the "hardness of heart" has melted away. The "eyes of our heart" refer the total inner person, including the soul (mind, will & emotions) & our spirit. Paul wants people to see with the light of God in order to grasp his message with every fiber of their being.

you may know... Paul longs for the Ephesians to advance to a fuller faith, greater awareness of & an appreciation for all God has done & made available to them as believers. Paul doesn't want them to be ignorant about *anything*! Paul wants them to know everything God desires that they receive. He wants them to know more of Christ, the very foundation of their hope & ours.

what is the hope to which He has called you... God called us to be His own. He called us to hope. He did so when He took the initiative for our salvation. We are called, chosen, justified, glorified & saved by faith, & faith alone, "a royal priesthood, a holy nation." We believe & we follow.

Not everyone responds to His call or knows of this great hope. Because we know, we are recipients of His blessings & power. Future hope is a tremendous motivation for giving thanks, praising God, joyful living & sharing one's faith. Paul prays for every believer to understand exactly what their possibilities & potential are so they will respond to God's invitation to accept the true riches He offers.

what are the riches of His glorious inheritance... The believer's inheritance is multi-dimensional. It means becoming a Child of God which entitles us to an inheritance. Plus, we gain eternity with Him, living in His righteousness for all time. As His children, we inherit everything God the Father has – joint heirs with Christ.

In addition, because we belong to Him & He claims us as His own, *we* become the inheritance in whom *He* is glorified! It is His gift to us, prepared by Him, BUT...& be sure you get this...it also refers to the inheritance God has in His people – us! We are His possession, & we are also the portion or inheritance He will finally & ultimately possess throughout eternity.

This glorious inheritance is the fullest measure of being satisfied. As we live out the hope of His calling, we *discover* those riches & *we become* those riches. Our hearts are fully satisfied – our “cup overflows.” Our inheritance is our place in God's kingdom. The “glory” of the inheritance *reflects* the glory that *belongs* to God. If we see glory in creation or any other *thing*, it is a reflection of God's own glory.

He created everything, including us, to glorify Him. Once we belong to Him, *He has inherited us!* Think of that! We bring God glory when we do what we were created to do & be what He created us to be. Doing & being what He desires brings us true riches as we become the true riches He inherits!

among the saints... These riches are only available to the saints, the believers who have Jesus as our Lord & Savior.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (There are certainly related verses not included in this list. Add others as you think of them.)

Deuteronomy 32:9, For the Lord's portion is His people, Jacob is His allotted share (inheritance).

Psalms 33:12, Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His heritage (inheritance).

Isaiah 43:1, But now thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

Jeremiah 10:16, Not like these (meaning idols of other nations) is the Lord, the portion of Jacob, for He is the one who formed all things, & Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; the Lord of hosts is His name.

Jeremiah 31:3b, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you.

Acts 26:18, “to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light & from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins & a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”

Romans 1:21, for though they (the ungodly) knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, & their senseless minds were darkened.

Romans 8:17, And if children, then heirs, heirs of God & joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Romans 8:24, For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

1 Corinthians 2:14, Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, & they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

2 Corinthians 4:18, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Ephesians 1:17, I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom & revelation as you come to know Him,

Ephesians 1:19-20, and (that you may know) what is the immeasurable greatness of His power for us who believe, according to the working of His great power. God put this power to work in Christ when He raised Him from the dead & seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 2:12, Remember you (Gentiles) were at that time (before they believed) without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, & strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope & without God in the world.

Colossians 1:27, To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2 Timothy 1:9, (God) who saved us & called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose & grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

1 Peter 1:3-5, Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, & into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, & unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 2:9, But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

2 Peter 3:9, The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:18, But grow in the grace & knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now & to the day of eternity. Amen.

SUMMARY

F. F. Bruce, a New Testament scholar, wrote that it seems incredible for God to set such a high value on redeemed sinners who still bear too many traces of their former state...*except for the fact* that God makes it clear He sees us *in Christ*. He chose us in the beginning *in Christ*! He loves us as much as He loves His Son.

Do we realize the value God places on each of us? We are His saints. Do we strive to live up to the high calling & accept with grateful humility the grace & glory He's lavished on us? Robert Morris is often quoted as saying that true riches are people. God looks on *us* as true riches because He sees us *in Christ!* We share in Christ's glory now. He deserves all honor & praise!

CONCLUSION

God loves us & delights in us! He loves us so much, He wants us to have everything that is His. He doesn't want us to miss out on anything. That's why He has called each of us to such hope, to know Him better each day & develop an intimate relationship with Him. He uses the prophets, His Son, disciples & others to draw us closer to Him.

The more fully we come to know our Triune God through His Word & spending time in His Presence, the more complete our human understanding will be & the greater spiritual transformation we will experience. We will begin to know all the things Paul wanted the church at Ephesus to know. Our love & faith will deepen; so will our desire to share our faith & tell others the joy of the true riches of God's inheritance.

God bestows on us an inheritance, & we, in turn, become His! When we respond to God's love & beneficence, we find our ultimate satisfaction, bring Him glory & live in the fullness of His blessings both here & in eternity.

Praise God from whom ALL Blessings Flow!

*Let this verse be a **LifeLine** for you!*

Let's Continue Learning!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!