



Sermon – November 4, 2018  
Chris Osborne

**Verses Covered**

*Ephesians 1:18*  
*2 Timothy 4:6 - 8*

So open your Bibles. We are in Ephesians 1. If you're visiting with us, we take a book and we start in the first chapter and go to the end because we want to be sure about what it says. We want to be absolutely sure. So we have a young couple in the church. They're dating. We're going to call them Bob and Betty. They've been dating for about a year. And when people say, "You know, I don't think you should go to church to find a wife." I'd rather you find them here than Hurricane Harry's. So I'm good. They've been dating about a year. Both godly. Both doing it right. This is why you always want to be careful with scripture. So he told her he was struggling with a little deal and so she, you know loving him and wanting to help him in Jesus, sent him a scripture verse. And wrote it out and then wrote the reference. So she sent him this. Proverbs 5:8.

*<sup>8</sup>Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because my enemies, make Your way straight before me.*

Proverbs 5:8. So she sent that to him. So, you know, I mean, they're dating. So he thought, "You know, that's really good. I'm going to underline that in my Bible." So he goes to Proverbs 5:8 and the hope is, in his heart, that she transposed Psalms and Proverbs. Because Proverbs 5:8 doesn't say that. Proverbs 5:8 says:

*<sup>8</sup>Keep your way far from her and do not go near the door of her house.*

So now he's trying to figure out, did she really transpose those or is it kind of a subtle way of saying, "I'm moving on." So one of the reasons we go the way we go in scripture is so that we can be absolutely sure of what it says and not sort of mess it up.

So we're coming to, we've looked in chapter 1, right. We're going to have to re-hash a little to go through what is in our passage today. We're going to have to go back a little bit to understand it. We have, of course, the position that God gave us. God, the Father, authorized our redemption. God, the son, accomplished it. God, the Spirit, applied it. He spoke to us. We believe Him. And

now we are positioned in Christ. It's why you can't lose it. You didn't earn it. He gave it. So I'm living inside this position. Now then he comes on the rest of the chapter and begins to talk about various benefits that you and I have as Christians. And the first thing he does is he offers a point of prayer. And he prays really, in this prayer, and we're sort of dissecting it slowly. He really talks about four things in his prayer. Last week he talked about having a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Today he's going to talk about the eye of your heart being enlightened. Thirdly he's going to talk about God's power in your life. And then the last thing he's going to do is talk about the exaltation of Christ. That is a benefit you get as well. So he's going to pray these four things about you. And again if you're a parent, you have a kid, these are great things. You want to pray all four prongs of this so they understand that and get it.

So the first thing we saw, and remember, so that we understand this in a correct metaphor. I've used this before. It's like we're in a chess game. OK. It's not God against Satan. That is going to be that quick. No battle there. But there is a battle between Satan's people and his influence through them versus God's people and His influence through us. So in the chess game you've only got two sides. It's really, as a matter of fact, chess was really a game of battle. It's a game of war which is exactly what the Bible says we're in. So I'm in this war between the influence in my life as God uses me versus the influence of other people as Satan uses them. In this chess game then, Paul prays, first thing, remember, last week he said, "I want you to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation and a deep knowledge of Him." Now again, we can't know God totally here because we're finite, He's infinite. And so the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 13, we know in part then we will know as we're known. So it's limited, but He wants us to have the fullest knowledge we can. And so he says, "I'm praying that you have a spirit of wisdom and revelation."

Now if you've ever played chess, you know two things. There are only two sides and all the pieces on both sides are made out of the same material. There's no shift. You don't have a knight of marble and a bishop of steel and a king of iron. You don't have that. They're all the same material. And that's exactly the metaphor. When he says a spirit of wisdom, all of us in this room, spirit of wisdom is the Holy Spirit explaining to us what's in this text. All of us in this room are bound by this text. So we're really, in a sense, all of the same material. We have to all exhibit the same character, the same responsibility, the same condition in response to the position that we're in. We're all bound by this book. So whatever the Holy Spirit reveals to us out of this book, all of us are bound by this. When it says, love your enemies, forgive those who mistrust you or mistreat you, every one of us in this room has to live that out. So the pieces are all the same. But then he said, "I want you to understand a spirit of revelation." God's Spirit moves the pieces differently in the game. We saw Acts 13, you've got this great church at Antioch. Holy Spirit comes to church and says, "I need two guys. Paul. Barnabas. I need them." So the church releases them and now they're moving out on the chess board. Antioch is here. But now Paul and Barnabas are moving. Not only are they moving, but then when they think they should go this way, the Holy Spirit, in Acts 16, stops them and moves them this way. Then you have Philip over here who's in Samaria and then the Spirit moves him to the middle of the road with the Ethiopian eunuch. So he says, I want you to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we all exhibit the same character with the same pieces, with the different directions. Now this is what he prays.

And now he comes to the second part. Now we're going to have to walk through this phrase by phrase. So I'm assuming you have your Bibles, you have them open. We're going to walk through

this. So here's what he says. I want you to have the spirit of wisdom and revelation in a knowledge of Him. As a matter of fact, again, that Greek word *epignōsis*, a strong knowledge of Him. Now listen to what he writes. We're going to read the whole thing and then we're going to piece-meal it. Look at what he says in verse 18. Last part of 17, Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him.

<sup>18</sup>by having the eyes of your heart enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance among the saints.

Now listen to what he says, and again, we're going to piece-meal this and then come back and put it together. He says, I want you to have eyes of your heart enlightened so that you may know the hope of your calling. Now, of His calling. Now when he says calling here, it's not a reference to calling out Paul and Barnabas. No, no, no, no, no. No. This is a reference where He calls you to leave the other side of the chess game and come to this side. It's the call of salvation. It's Ephesians 1 where the Holy Spirit speaks to you and so there's a call ushered to you to say, "Come over here." Now the Bible's clear. Jesus said, "Many are called, few are chosen." We get called, but we don't have to respond and say, "Yes." You can stay on the other side. But there's a call that will come to you, whether or not you leave that side and come to this side. And as in a chess game, there's only two sides. So you're going to get a call to come to this side. It's not a call of direction. It's a call of salvation. Now listen to what he says.

I want you to know the hope that is in that calling.

Now we use the word hope not in the way the Bible uses it. For example, I hope that Jerry Jones will sell the Cowboys. I've been hoping that since the day he fired Tom Landry. I've hoped other things I can't share, but that's the one that I can share. I'm hoping that Jerry sells the Cowboys. Now I'm pretty sure he's not going to do that. Now that's the way we generally use hope. It's something we hope will happen, but probably or may not happen. But with the Bible when it uses the word hope, it comes up with the idea of something you don't have now, but you absolutely will. For example, if Dallas Morning News comes out tomorrow morning, I hope, and says that Jerry will announce this afternoon in a meeting that Friday he is going to sell the Dallas Cowboys. That's the biblical meaning of hope. It's something that has been announced but you don't have yet. So the hope of your calling, now listen, your calling is to change sides. So in that calling, God puts, makes you a certain piece and He puts you in certain places on the board. But there's coming a day when you leave the game, when you die. There is a hope that is coming when the game is over for you. Is it good? Look at what he says.

What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance among the saints,

I have, when the game is over, an inheritance that reflects His glory and it is rich. I have that. You say, "Well what is it?" I don't have time to do into it, but let me just tell you. I get Him perfectly. Every person I meet, when I leave the game, every person I meet here, I never lose them, there's never a person I don't love, never a person I don't like and enjoy. The world here is hospitable, it's great, and then here's this based on 1 Corinthians and what we'll look at in 2 Timothy. Whatever I did correctly as a piece on the game living out the place He sent me as a piece and a place. Whatever I've done right, when the game is over for me, He rewards me for what I did. He

blessees me. That's what 1 Corinthians says. He gives me rewards. He puts His glory on me in a stupendous way based on what I did while I was in the game. If I reject the call, then I'm in trouble when the game's over. If I accept the call, I have this great stuff that is the riches of the glory of His inheritance to the saints, the hope of His calling, it's not something I have right now, but it is a guaranteed surety that when the game is over for me, I'm going to Him. Now, now listen, because he's very precise in the second part of his prayer. Listen to what he says.

[In a full knowledge of Him, I want the eyes of your heart enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling.](#)

Now listen to me. Let me ask you a question. Everything I just told you, where did I get that? Bible. It's not a trick question. OK. Where did I get that? Did I get it from here? Lock the doors. We're staying later. Yes! I got it from here! So if He's already given me that knowledge, why does He then again say second part of his prayer? Because if the first part of his prayer is answered, I have the spirit of wisdom and revelation, I already know this. But the second part is God I want them to know the hope of His calling. I already know that. But listen carefully. Listen. He doesn't want me to know it intellectually. I want the eyes of your heart to be enlightened as to the hope of the calling. In other words, your heart, the seat of your affection, your emotion, your operating system, the core of your soul. He says at the core of your soul, I want you to be enlightened about what happens when the game is over. Now why does he do that? Why is that the second part of his prayer? Why doesn't he pray that my eyes and my heart are enlightened with the spirit of wisdom and revelation? Because that automatically happens here. When God reveals something in this book to you, it affects you emotionally. When He comes to you and says, "I want you to go over here and not here." It affects you emotionally. So the Spirit of wisdom and revelation automatically affect me emotionally. They hit my heart. But not this. Now if you're in your late eighties, and you're here, this is beginning to affect you. If you lose somebody you love; you lose a four-year-old daughter. This affects you because now you crave to know what's on the other side for her. But if that's not true for you, you're in your mid-twenties, both graduated from A&M, accountants making a lot of money, doing a good job, everything's wonderful, no problems, everything, health is great. God may speak to you with wisdom, He may move you on the chess board. Let's be honest. This, this has no bearing in your life at all. And what he prays, I want you to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation. I want God to make you the right piece and put you in the right place. But in the middle of that, now listen, in the middle of that I want you to be moved emotionally by what happens to you when the game is over. Why? Because there are things on the game that I won't do if I'm not emotionally connected to the end of the game.

I was in Dallas last week at a board meeting for Criswell College. And I was talking to someone and they were discussing the Burmese, a group of the Burmese population there in Dallas. It's a ministry to them, obviously people in Burma. And they said, "You know what's amazing. Is every one of them was a believer." And then somebody at the table said, "The legacy of Adoniram Judson." Now you may not know that name, but I know a couple guys went before him, but Adoniram was really the main missionary that went to Burma. In 12 years of preaching, 12 years of hard preaching, him and his wife both, 18 converts. In the middle of that toward the end, there was a war between United Kingdom and Burma. And so they arrested him, put him in a jail, vile jail. Think Iranian prison, Yemen, just vile. Tortured. Beaten up. His wife, pregnant and sick,

makes the rounds with every government official she can to try to keep him alive. He's finally released. Shortly after the release, she dies. And shortly after that the child she was pregnant with dies. Now how do you, how do you not get bitter? How do you not quit? How do you not say, "You know what, God. I'm done. Lost my wife. Lost my child. I've spent 12 years here. I got 18 converts. My friends at home are building great churches. I'm going home." How do you stay where He's put you on the chess board? Because you know what's coming. You know what happens when the game is over and you want to see your wife and let her know you stayed the course. Because you know what's coming. Why is the divorce rate same in the church as it is outside the doors? Because we divorce for the same reason. Don't misunderstand me. There are times you need to divorce. I know that sounds crazy, but it's absolutely true. There are times you need to divorce. I had a lady in my office one time that said every night her husband took a 357 magnum revolver, if you don't know anything about guns, it's very powerful. It's a cylinder gun, not a semi-automatic. And so he'd flip the cylinder out, put a bullet in there, spin it, cock it, put it up against her head. Wouldn't pull the trigger. Wasn't Russian Roulette. But then he'd take it, pull it away, under the cylinder, put the bullet and cylinder back in, and go to bed every night. She said, "What should I do?" She had two little girls in the other room. I said, "I'll tell you what you do. You get out of that house." So understand, I get it. I do. I get it. But there's the flip side. For those of us who have no reason for divorce, but all we see is what's on the board. We know, "I should stay here with this person I'm unhappy with, we've got a mortgage, we've got some debt, I'm struggling, I know I should stay here. I know that's what God wants me to do. That's His calling, but I'm not happy. So I think, and I know He'll forgive me. So I'm outta here." But if in the core of your being you know that when you die He will always honor you for staying in the place He's called you to stay whether you're happy or not, you will stay. We quit because this doesn't impact us. It did Paul. Listen to this. 2 Timothy chapter 4. Slide over there. 2 Timothy chapter 4 verses 6 to 8. Listen to what he writes.

<sup>6</sup>For I have already been poured out, the time of my departure has arrived.

Literally in the Greek, I have agonized the good agony.

<sup>7</sup>I finished the race, I kept the faith; <sup>8</sup>there is remaining for me stored up,

And that's literally the Greek word. Something reserved.

The crown of righteousness which He shall deliver to me, the Lord, in that day, the righteous judge, and not only to me, but to every single person who has loved His appearance.

He's days from being beheaded. He says, "You know what, I'm good. I finished the race. I kept the faith. And I know He's rewarding me for everything I've done." And this guy went through misery for Jesus. He stayed in the middle of it because he knew that. You say, "Well I understand that, preacher, he's at the end of his life. Sure that's going to affect him." Now look in the book of Philippians. He writes to them and he says, listen, I'm pressed between two things. And he's just brutally honest. He says, "I want to go home and be with Christ which is way better than being here with you." That's cold. He said, "But it's better for you if I stay." It pressed on him. And I think that's it. Paul's praying that I not only understand where I'm to be and what I'm to

be, but I want, He wants me to understand the passion in my depths of my soul what is coming so when the games' over, that understanding will hold me in place. It will make me the piece I should be and it will make me stay in the place He's called me to be.

So second part. So you be the piece and the place based on what you know in your gut is coming for you when the game is over. It ends for all of us at some point. But right now, I'd make that a part of my prayer life.

Father, thank You for the integrity of Your book. Thank You for its clarity. Thank You for the prayer of Paul. And Father I pray for all of us in this room. He prayed for this church so I pray for this church. Give every one of us in this room a wisdom into your word, a direction in our lives, let us know You as fully as we can and let our souls be consumed with what happens when the game's over so we won't do anything You don't want us to while the game is on. Honor us in that pray. I ask it in Jesus Christ name.