

#### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Romans 5:1–5 | John 17:10–26 | Philippians 1:6

#### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 06.15.25

#### SUMMARY

Paul continues his letter to the church at Ephesus—a church where about five years earlier he had spent a considerable amount of time—praising the Lord for how the church was thriving in Christ. His prayer for the church is that they would be fully aware of “the hope to which he has called you” (v. 18). In modern English, we often think of hope as something that we want or desire to take place in the future but aren’t sure it will actually happen. The New Testament concept of hope expresses a much stronger sentiment. Hope, as Paul uses it, refers to the future promises of God that will *most certainly* come to pass. Paul continues by rooting his rationale for believing in the Lord’s promises in the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul tells the church that they have been sealed by the Holy Spirit—the One who raised Christ from the dead, seated Christ at the Father’s right hand, and given him power over all the principalities and dominions of this world—that his same Holy Spirit is the anchor of the believer’s soul and the guarantee of our future inheritance. The Holy Spirit is the believer’s *certain* hope.

Paul reassures the church that the Holy Spirit has exalted Christ, and he is *now* the head of the church. So the apostle calls the church to consider all that Christ has done—together with the Father and the Holy Spirit—to secure our salvation, and in light of this, be assured with great certainty that he will complete the work he began in the heart of every believer. In the final analysis, if we look to ourselves for strength, we will live in despair. But if we depend on the power and promise of God, we can not only rejoice in the redemption he bought us but live fully assured of the inheritance the Father has laid up for us in heaven.

#### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ephesians 1:15–23.

Describe your understanding of hope and compare it to a biblical understanding of hope. How can we know with certainty that the promises the Lord has made will come to pass?

It was the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the dead and seated him at the right hand of God. How does knowing this reassure you in your day-to-day struggles?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

#### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.