

Discussion Questions

“When You Know What the World Doesn’t Know”—Ephesians 1:15-23

(Who is the most genuinely joyful or hopeful person you know? How does being around them impact or influence you?)

Paul and Silas suffered imprisonment for their faith in God.

- What’s the most stretching experience you’ve ever been in?
- What enabled you to endure and overcome that experience?
- What do you think enables people to genuinely experience hope and joy and continue to be grateful in the midst of difficulties or hardships?

In Ephesians 1:15-23 Paul prays for the Church, and we’re the Church. He prays not that we’d try harder, not that we’d be more responsible and disciplined, but that we’d see something and know something.

- What does he pray that we’d see and know?
- Why do you think he prays specifically for those things?
- When you meditate on the truths of all that is accomplished in Christ (see Eph. 1:15-23 for ideas), How does that change the way you “do” the things Scripture encourages us to do?
- What do you personally know/believe (deeply) about God and His goodness that sets you free from feeling in bondage to this world and its ways

Paul prays:

1. “May you know the hope to which He has called you.”
 - What do you think is the hope to which He’s has called His Church (corporately)?
 - What do you think is the hope to which He’s has called you (personally)?
 - How do you feel about hope? Are you afraid to hope? Full of hope? Something else?
2. “May you know the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints.”
 - What do you think Paul is talking about here?
 - In your experience, what are the “riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints”?
3. “That we may know the immeasurable greatness of His power in us [toward us] who believe.”
 - In what ways have you already experienced the immeasurable greatness of His power?
 - In what areas would you most like to experience the immeasurable greatness of His power now?

When Paul & Silas were in prison in Philippi, they experienced the immeasurable power of God’s greatness in them as they sang songs and hymns. The quaking earth blew the jailhouse doors wide open!

- Have you ever experienced the power of praise or worship in your life or in the life of another? Praise set Paul and Silas free from prison. Have you seen praise or worship set you or others from any prisons (emotional, spiritual, etc.)?

Ephesians 1:22: “[God] put all things under his feet and made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” The slaughtered Lamb is the boss of all things for the Church, which is us. So, the plans of God cannot fail. His Body will not fail, but it does suffer—we will suffer. Jesus even said so, “*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*”—P.H.

- Does knowing that His Body will not fail bring you hope?
- How does that knowledge affect the way you experience suffering in this world? Does it change how you experience the suffering in any way?

If you can, find someone you trust & would like to pray for & also have pray for you. Ask God what He might want that person to see or know about Him. Then pray for one another.

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*