

Speaker 1 ([00:17](#)):

My name is Ashley. I'm really honored that the team at the death millennial project have asked me to be involved in this meeting. As we study the book of Ephesians, I'm really excited to share with you guys what I've learned before I get going. I just want to level with you guys. When I read the Bible, I typically read it, um, and get the surface meaning out, but I don't always go as in depth, uh, you know, life can get so busy with work and other commitments. So when they let me know which chapter I was going to be studying, I looked at the passage. We're going to be looking at Ephesians one 15 through 23. So I read the passage of first time. Uh, but I didn't fully understand it. Some of the verses were clear to me, but some of the others, I wasn't sure what the specific meaning was, but I read it several times over again. And that helped me understand more. In addition, that I watched Def missions translation of the Bible into ASL, the ASL version or ASL V. And that helped me understand a lot better. In addition to that, me and my dad actually got together and studied that this specific passage.

Speaker 1 ([01:42](#)):

Then the day after that I continued reading it. Um, so over time I've read it several times and I seem to understand better and better each time I read it. So I wanted to share that with you. Um, I know that it's not possible for us to understand everything in the Bible at first glance. And I think that that's normal. So I just wanted to be honest with you there also, Jesus says in Mark four 25, that the more you read, the more you listen, the more you'll understand and your understanding will increase. So I just wanted to share that with you guys. All right. I'm excited to share with y'all.

Speaker 1 ([02:21](#)):

Yeah. And to tell you more what I've learned about this passage. So first of all, we're going to watch a translation of this passage into ASL from death missions. So we're going to watch that first before we get going. All right. So I'm so thankful for deaf missions doing this translation of the Bible. I thank God for them. We know that it's hard work that they're doing now. What we're going to do is we're going to go through and read each first, and I will give a little more information about each first and then explain it as we go along.

Speaker 2 ([05:35](#)):

All right.

Speaker 1 ([05:40](#)):

So I'm going to be using the new King James version that in KJV and also the new living translation, which is here on my rights, the new King James version on my left, uh, the new living translation is modern verbiage. It's a bit easier to understand. So the new living translation is what I read every day. And the new King James version is what I use for deeper study. All right. Are you guys ready? Okay. So to give you guys a brief background passage, we're going to be looking at verses 15 through 23. It's part of a letter that Paul wrote to the church in emphasis.

Speaker 1 ([06:22](#)):

So looking at verse 15 here, it says, after I heard of your faith in the Lord, Jesus, and your love for all the saints saints in this context means God's people, um, believers in Jesus Christ. Paul says here, after I have heard of their faith, my question is, how has Paul heard of their faith? It kind of makes us wonder, and it seems the answer would be that people are telling stories of their faith. So it seems that that

might be how Paul has heard and because others have shared it. So that's one thing that comes to mind when looking at this passage. In addition to that, we see here, they're talking about love, love for each other.

Speaker 1 ([07:14](#)):

We know that Jesus says to love other people and for us to love each other. That's the, the commission that he's given to people. So they're showing their faith through loving others. And also it seems that rumors of their love for each other have reached Paul as well. Then looking at verse 16, Paul says, I do not cease to give thanks for you making mention of you in my prayers. So Paul, after hearing of this church's faithfulness, he thanks God for them. It's it seems that their faith is an encouragement to Paul. And that's really powerful for us to be able to share our faith, which can function as an encouragement to each other.

Speaker 1 ([08:11](#)):

It's an opportunity to give each other inspiration, which is what we're seeing with Paul here. The news of the faithfulness of the church and emphasis is giving him encouragement. When Paul wrote this epistle, he was actually in jail. All six chapters of Ephesians were written during his time in prison. So he sends this letter to the church in emphasis during that time he hears of their faithfulness and gives thanks to God because it encourages him to persevere in his own faith, which is really powerful. Our stories that we share with others have power because they can encourage others to continue to persevere and be faithful themselves. But we can also see that he says he mentions them in his prayers and for 16. So it seems Paul is praying for the people in this church, just like we should pray for others around us. Moving on to verse 17, It's talking about what Paul is praying. Praise that the Lord of the God, of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. So let's look at the NLT here, Cause it's easier to understand.

Speaker 1 ([09:53](#)):

Okay? So it says asking God, the glorious father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. So that's what Paul is praying for this church and the people in it that God would give them spiritual wisdom and understanding so that they would grow in their understanding and that their knowledge would increase specifically their knowledge about God. So moving down to verse 18, it says the eyes of your understanding being enlightened. I really like how definitions translates this verse. They talk about their eyes, um, having a more complete vision and understanding I like their translation so that you may know what is the hope of his calling and what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance. So something God has given us, he's given us an inheritance in the saints, which again means God's people.

Speaker 1 ([11:19](#)):

So there are really three main points in verse 18, and I'm going to talk about each of them separately. Uh, the first part says the eyes of your understanding being enlightened. And that's one way we take in God's word is through reading his word with our eyes. And we come to a deeper understanding of him. Reading God's word is so important because without reading, we can't understand him and we can't grow as much reading really helps us understand and leads to growth. So moving onto the next part, it says that you may know what is the hope of his calling. So when I was talking about this passage with my dad, actually, he was explaining

Speaker 2 ([12:15](#)):

That

Speaker 1 ([12:15](#)):

It's important that we know what God calls us to do what his purposes are for us. And even to the extent of what is the purpose of life as we read God's word, we understand more about who he is and what his intentions are also reading us helps us understand that life is a gift from God.

Speaker 2 ([12:41](#)):

So Paul

Speaker 1 ([12:42](#)):

Is praying that the church would understand

Speaker 2 ([12:44](#)):

That.

Speaker 1 ([12:47](#)):

And I really like how the NLT translate this, uh, because the new King James version is a little hard to understand, but let's look over here at verse 18.

Speaker 2 ([13:00](#)):

Okay.

Speaker 1 ([13:00](#)):

It says, 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. I like how it translates this so we can understand is what it's saying here. Understand and have confidence and hope.

Speaker 2 ([13:28](#)):

So

Speaker 1 ([13:29](#)):

Paul is praying and when we look and see Paul's prayer, he's praying that we would see and understand and have hope based on our reading of the scriptures.

Speaker 2 ([13:40](#)):

Okay. So looking at the next part of verse 18, okay.

Speaker 1 ([13:46](#)):

It says, what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance

Speaker 2 ([13:55](#)):

In his people, the saints. So together

Speaker 1 ([13:59](#)):

A little bit more of an explanation about that part.

Speaker 2 ([14:05](#)):

We have to go all the way back, okay.

Speaker 1 ([14:09](#)):

To the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis.

Speaker 2 ([14:14](#)):

Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([14:14](#)):

Genesis God provides an inheritance to Abraham. He gives Abraham a blessing. And that blessing is something that is passed down to the other members of Abraham's family.

Speaker 2 ([14:29](#)):

Okay.

Speaker 1 ([14:30](#)):

Through the inheritance. So Abraham's descendants inherit that blessing from God, but in Paul's prayer here, we're seeing that those in the church in Ephesus, I understand that the inheritance that God promised to Abraham also applies those who believe in Jesus, that inheritance of Abraham's descendants now applies to those in the church as well. So here Paul is praying that they would understand the marvelous things. God has given them through their belief in Jesus Christ. So pretty deep meaning that's one, one reason it's important for us to read the Bible so we can understand what God has given us through the work of Christ. It says, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power towards us who believe according to the work of his mighty power and frequency with the NLT says, it says, I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. So Paul is praying that when we read God's word, we would understand God's power and know that that power is available to us

Speaker 2 ([16:02](#)):

S

Speaker 1 ([16:07](#)):

Which he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. So that power that God said is available to us is the exact same power that he used to raise Jesus from the dead. And that power of the resurrection is available for us today, which is incredible. Going down to verse 21, it's talking about principalities powers, dominion into names, not only in this age, but in the age to come. Okay. So here where they're talking about principalities, uh, that would be Kings Queens royalty. Those who are in charge of governmental powers. So the power of

those world leaders, this passage is saying that God's power surpasses all of their powers, not only for now, but forever. God's power is eternal and far above any human or earthly powers. We can see going down at first 22, it says, and he got here, put all things under his meaning Jesus' feet

Speaker 2 ([17:51](#)):

And

Speaker 1 ([17:52](#)):

Gave him Jesus to be the head over all things to the church. So in this passage, we have God

Speaker 2 ([18:11](#)):

Putting

Speaker 1 ([18:11](#)):

Everything imaginable, absolutely everything, including people, including even those rulers we were talking about before all of them under Jesus, under subjugation to him. And Jesus is the head of it all and rules over it all. So we can see that Jesus has power and authority over everything because God has placed everything underneath him. All right. So that's 22. Then moving down to verse 23,

Speaker 2 ([18:49](#)):

It says to his body, the church

Speaker 1 ([18:55](#)):

Fullness of him who fills all in all.

Speaker 2 ([19:07](#)):

So it says the

Speaker 1 ([19:09](#)):

Church, right? We are the body, his people Very clearly. It says that we are his body here on earth, which means we represent Christ on earth. We believe in him, we follow him and we try to model our lives after his example, by loving each other. Um, that's one way that we can model him here on earth. That's what it means for us to be his body is that we're demonstrating him here.

Speaker 2 ([19:43](#)):

So

Speaker 1 ([19:44](#)):

To summarize verses 19:20, 21, 22 and 23,

Speaker 2 ([19:59](#)):

Paul is explaining that

Speaker 1 ([20:02](#)):

God has immense power And that it is above any other power up in heaven and us here on earth. We have that same power, the power that raised Jesus from the dead.

Speaker 2 ([20:20](#)):

Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([20:20](#)):

And we can see here that God has put everything. All of the earthly powers of this world, world leaders under Jesus. Jesus is the head and we are his body.

Speaker 2 ([20:35](#)):

Meaning

Speaker 1 ([20:36](#)):

His power is available to us for anything we need.

Speaker 2 ([20:41](#)):

His

Speaker 1 ([20:41](#)):

Power is available. For example, the power to heal, heal. People from diseases, heal people from trauma, The power to protect the power, to give peace, the power to provide for needs. For example, financial needs food, every sort of need. We might have anything that we desire is possible with God. He is immensely powerful and his power is available to us. So Paul, in this passage is praying for those in the church that they would read God's word and grow in understanding so that they could understand God's power available to us.

Speaker 3 ([21:32](#)):

[inaudible]

Speaker 1 ([21:37](#)):

So that's kind of the gist of verses 19 through 23. So Paul is praying that we would have a deeper understanding of God, those of us who believe in Jesus,

Speaker 1 ([21:53](#)):

Jesus says, all things are possible to those who believe that's in Mark nine 23. So everything is possible for those who are believers, but how do we believe if we don't read God's word reading, God's word helps us understand more deeply how's it helps us come to new realizations about what God has given us through Christ. So in these verses Ephesians one 15 through 23, Paul is writing to the church, uh, back in emphasis, even though that was written 2000 years ago, it still applies to us today, as we pray for churches and those of us who are believers, So pray that God will give us spiritual wisdom and understanding so that as we read God's word, our eyes will be enlightened. Like this passage was talking about so we can understand and have confidence and hope in him. So that's what Paul is praying for the church in emphasis. Yeah. I want to encourage you guys take the time to read your Bible every day. Even

This transcript was exported on Apr 23, 2021 - view latest version [here](#).

if it's only for five minutes, still go ahead and read it. It'll help you understand so much more. It can give you hope it will help strengthen your faith and it'll help you with your everyday life.

Speaker 1 ([23:29](#)):

It'll benefit you so much And help grow your reliance on God. So again, I encourage you guys really read your Bible daily. It will change your life. I know it's changed my life for the better.

Speaker 3 ([23:46](#)):

Thank you for watching. Bye.