**March 12, 2017 “That You Will Know” Ephesians 1:15-23**

Yesterday, when we had our men’s meeting, we discussed Ephesians 6:10-20 which is the passage dealing with spiritual warfare. In essence, we needed to remember that our battle as leaders in this church is not against any particular group or political party, but rather our battle is a spiritual battle being fought for the hearts and minds of all mankind in every area in which we have been called to minister.

Many people today try to pinpoint a particular sin or area of sin as the major problem in the church today. It may be that the problem is the music no longer glorifies God and because of that reason, many people have a lukewarm walk with God. Others say, that the problem is that pastors no longer preach the Word but rather tell “feel good” human interest stories which may sound very good and are entertaining which really helps fill the pews which make the church able to support and sustain many of the outreaches of that particular church. Others point to the many and various books which many people within the ranks of Christianity are reading (i.e. “Your Best Life Is Now”; “How To Make God Work For You”; “12 Steps To Answered Prayer”; and on and on it goes.

Could it be that the answer to most of the problems which assail our lives is found in God’s Word? In Revelation 2:4, the warning given to the church of Ephesus, the church that this the book we are now studying is named after, is this, “you have lost your first love”. Could that actually be the real problem? Interestingly, I found an article named “Forty Evidences That You Have Lost Your First Love”. I thought to myself… really… I need 40 evidences that I have lost my first love?

So how does this Scripture apply to my life and to yours? Here is a follow-up question, “How many of us live with eternity in the forefront of our minds?” Is eternity a constant motivation in our lives? Does it affect you how you teach your children? Does it affect how you and I conduct our lives in front of the unsaved of this world? Am I and are you concerned with the eternal destiny of every person we meet?

Note the blessings we have in Christ… Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 1:15-23

1. That you will know (vs 18)
   1. What?
      1. Vs 19
         1. The surpassing greatness of His power toward us
            1. Acts 1:8….you shall receive “power” to witness
            2. Power to tell people that Jesus still changes lives
            3. Power to suffer (II Corinthians 4:16-18)
            4. Power to preach
            5. Power to teach
            6. Power to live out His will in your life
            7. Power to overcome sin
      2. Give me a description of this power
         1. Vs 20…..when He raised Christ from the dead
            1. Sin could not hold Him
            2. Death did not have dominion over Him
            3. Hell could not stop Him
            4. On the third day He rose again
            5. He is seated at the right hand of God the Father
         2. Some day that same power will raise every child of God
         3. We will see Him as He is
            1. All His glory
            2. All His fullness
            3. All His wisdom will be made known to us
2. So what is Paul saying in this passage we are looking at today?
   1. I want you to know and remember every day
      1. Vs 18… the hope of His calling
      2. The riches of your inheritance in Christ
      3. The surpassing greatness of His power
         1. Romans 8:38-39
         2. Why will nothing ever separate us from the love of God?
   2. It is His will (Romans 8: 29)
      1. To be conformed to the image of His Son
3. Why is all this ours?
   1. Because of who He is
      1. Vs 21-23
         1. He is the source of all I need
         2. Song… He lives