

WISDOM: ALL SAINTS

November 3, 2024

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Ephesians 1:11-23

11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has

called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Who are the people in your life who have inspired you, taught you something you'll never forget, or shown you what it means to live a Christ-like life? What did they say or do for you, or what was their presence like?
3. We have this letter expressing gratitude directly. As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, how can you "give thanks" for the people who have made a difference in your life—perhaps by telling them of your gratitude directly—in the week or month ahead?

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4. When you think of a “saint”, who or what comes to mind?
5. It seems Christianity has gotten more comfortable with labeling people (and ourselves) as “sinners” and less so as “saints.” Yet throughout the New Testament, and in this passage, the term “saint” refers to the people of the church, anyone who is “in Christ”. Why do you think it might be hard to name and claim ourselves as “saints”? How might it be empowering and important for the church today?
6. This passage speaks of “inheritance.” Have you ever inherited anything? If so, what was it, and how did you feel about it? What do you hope to pass on to others as an inheritance—whether possessions, qualities of life, or important ideas?