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Grace Unleashed

PART

5

TITLE

We Are Heirs

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:15-23



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Well good morning, Providence family, grateful to have you here today. If it's your first time with us, welcome. It's been a sweet time for us as a church, we've been walking through one of the 66 books that make this bible, the book of Ephesians. If you have a copy of God's word, go ahead and turn to the book of Ephesians, that's where we're gonna be today. If you don't have a copy of God's word, there should be one ... I know there's one out in the hallway or there might be some in the chairs in front of you. If you have one of those ESV Bibles you can open up to page 976. 976 is where we're gonna be today looking at Ephesians.

If you haven't been here, if you've just forgotten what's happened over the last couple weeks, we've been in Ephesians chapter 1. Today, we're gonna finish it, so four weeks we're gonna get through Ephesians chapter 1, but the reason why is because it's so rich, full of just different truths that we need to know about those who are in Christ. What I love about the book of Ephesians is the first three chapters are all about just facts and truths that we need to know, okay? These things that we need to know about who God is and who we are. Then, the last three chapters, just six in the book of Ephesians, the last three chapters are all about what do we do with that, right?

The reason why I love that is because that's what the Christian life is. It's not first about what we can do, but it's rather, what God has done for us and now we live in light of what God has done for us. It's a beautiful section and just looking back over the last 14 verses before we dive into verse 15. Paul had just told us, told the church there and church today, that we are faithful in Christ. This is our identity as Christians. We are blessed in Christ. Verse 4 it says, "We're chosen in Christ." Verse 5, "We're adopted as sons." It says in verse 7, "We are redeemed and forgiven." We also have an inheritance in verse 14. All of these different things it keeps telling us over and over again, this is who we are in Christ.

Paul is praising God for what he's done for us, and then there's a shift in verse 15, which is a great shift. After we praise God, what do we do? We should pray and that's what Paul does. He prays a prayer that I've prayed for you guys this week, prayed for this church, but Paul opens up in verse 15. This is what the word of God says and we'll read through the end of the chapter. Paul writes and says, "For this reason." What reason? All the truths he's just said of who we are in Christ.

"For this reason, because I've heard of your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and in your love toward the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that he has called us, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is his immeasurable greatness of his power towards those who believe, according to the working of his great might that worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 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 one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."

Let's pray. Take a moment right now, no matter where you are in your spiritual walk, just take a moment to ask God silently to speak to you today. Take a moment just to pray that God would speak his word clearly through me this morning. Father God, we gather because we need you. Lord, we need you to enlighten our hearts so that we can see and know you. God, I pray that today that we would know you in a personal way, more than just letters on a page, God, but we would know you in our lives, in our relationships. God, help us to know the hope that we have in you. God, that we would know that we are valuable to you. Lord, may we grasp all of this in light of your immeasurable greatness. We pray this in Christ's name, Amen.

There's a man I want you to know two things about. It's a true story. There was a man named Tim Gray, lived in Wyoming, and the two things you need to know about Tim Gray is first, he was due an inheritance of \$19 million. Due an inheritance of \$19 million. He was a distant relative of Huguette Clark, whose estate was worth \$300 million. That's the first thing you need to know about him. The second is this, Tim was a homeless man who lived underneath a bridge. Now what's so amazing about that is we're like, "Well, if he's a homeless guy and yet there's an inheritance that was due to him of \$19 million, why did he live like that? Why did he live as a homeless man?" It's because he didn't know. He didn't know about his inheritance that he had. Tragically, before they could get the news to him, before he could find out that he was a millionaire, he passed away of hypothermia in the middle of the night living underneath a bridge.

Now why I say that is because Paul has just laid out a list of things that we have in Christ and he's praying now for you and for these people that they would know these facts, that they would know these things. He doesn't want them to live their whole lives, and die, and not know of the true riches, and the true greatness that they have in Christ Jesus. If we could rewind time, we would run to Tim and tell him, "You are rich in Christ. You are rich not just in the financial sense, but you are rich in Christ if you would believe and trust in him." That's what Paul wants us to see today as well. His prayer, of all the things that Paul could've prayed for, his prayer is, first, he gives thanks to God for them and then in verse 17 he prays this that, "May God give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know."

Paul is praying that they would know and this is crazy. Of all the things that Paul could've prayed for, right? Of all the things, he prays that they would know God. There's a sense of that of like, "The audacity of Paul to pray that," right? I mean, there's people in this time that I'm sure were struggling financially, that are struggling with health issues, that are struggling with relationship issues. Why would Paul, of all things he could pray for, stop here and say, "I pray that they would know God, they would know these things about God." I truly believe this, because as we know God, it speaks into every single one of these areas in our lives. When we feel unloved, we know in Christ we're loved. When we feel like we're not accepted, we can look back and know that we have been adopted into Christ's family. We have been chosen. When we feel like we have no financial security, we can look to the one who holds all treasure in his hand and have faith and trust in him.

This is the God which he prays that we would know. Now in the Greek, which is what the New Testament was written in, the language, there are two different words for no. One of the words was just a head knowledge, a knowledge of facts. [Greek 00:08:39] was the word in the Greek. [Greek 00:08:40], I know these facts. This would be things like, “I know that as a Yankees fan the New York Yankees have won 27 championships.” I know that’s a fact. It’s data. I know that Raleigh is the capital of North Carolina and I know that New Bern used to be the capital of North Carolina. I know, thanks to Shark Week, that bull sharks have the most testosterone of any creature on earth. I know these, these are facts, these are data points, right? That’s not the word that Paul uses here. He doesn’t use [Greek 00:09:12] just to know facts about God.

He uses [Greek 00:09:17], which this is a word to know with experience. It’s important that we would know this with experience. We wouldn’t just know facts about God, know truths about God, but instead we would internalize them, we’d meditate on that, we would know them as true. This word that he uses here for [Greek 00:09:37], the way I describe it is like this, I can know a lot about a parachute, right? I can take a class and study how to skydive. I can know how a parachute opens and how you fold it back up and put it in the pack. That’s [Greek 00:09:50] knowledge, but [Greek 00:09:52] is when I suit up, I get in the airplane. We go and we take off and then I jump out of the plane and pull the strap, right? That’s when I’m [Greek 00:10:01]ing the parachute. I’m experiencing it, hopefully, holding me up. Which by the way, I would never do. You guys are crazy that would do that.

That’s what he’s talking about here. He wants us to [Greek 00:10:11] God. He wants us to experience God in real personal ways. Now, Paul gets real specific in what he wants us to know about God, which I’m thankful for. He says this in verse 18, look back there with me. He says, “Having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know.” What does he want us to know? “What is the hope to which he has called you.” The first thing Paul wants us to know is the hope that we have from God. Now when we think about hope in our culture today, it’s not with assurance. It’s really with maybe a longing. Like, “I hope the Yankees win tonight, but they’re probably going to lose the series, but I hope,” right? I hope in this. That’s not what the Bible means when it talks about hope. It talks about the hope with assurance that there’s a firm foundation, that it’s going to happen. Maybe not right now, but we know for a fact it’s going to happen.

When Paul says, “He wants us to know the hope,” he’s saying, “I want you to know with assurance what you have from God, the hope you have from God.” Our hope is in what Christ has done. We look back, but we also look forward. Our hope is in what Christ will do. Now I don’t want us to rush past this church, because hope is so important for us today. We live in a culture that is starving for true hope, for lasting hope. They’re looking for it everywhere and they can’t find it, but we see glimpses of this hunger for hope everywhere. I was talking to one of my neighbors in our cul-de-sac this last week and some of y’all have heard what’s going on in the NFL with players not coming out for the National Anthem, so staying the locker room, or kneeling and not standing. One of my neighbors, the one I’m talking to, is a huge Pittsburgh Steelers fan and so I just asked him. I was like, “Hey, what are your thoughts on this?”

He was really upset about it and he talks to me about it for a little while and kind of vents. Then finally he looks at me and he's like, "Hey, what are your thoughts on it?" To be honest, I didn't really have thoughts in the moment. I was like, "I don't know, that's a great question." I said, "Well, I'm a why person. I like to ask why and so when I saw them do that, my question was, 'Why are they doing that?' As I saw interviews and I read articles, they kept saying the same thing. They said, 'We're doing this because of all the injustices that we see in our nation. All the injustices.'" I looked at my friend and I said, "Man, I agree with them that there's a lot of injustices in our nation, but it's bigger than a nation problem, it's bigger than an American problem. There's injustices all around our world." I said, "I think what we're longing for is somebody to fix these injustices, but I don't think it's our government that can fix all these things."

I said, "My hope is that Christ will fix all these things and it's hope with assurance, right? That Christ is going to fix it." It doesn't matter who our President is, or what our government is, Christ one day is going to come and he's going to fix all of these injustices and all of this brokenness in the world. This was his response in this conversation. He looked back at me and he said, "So what you believe is that Jesus is actually King over all this stuff?" I said, "That's exactly right, that's exactly what I believe. That's the hope that I have in Christ." That's a beautiful picture. That's what we need to take to a world that's longing for hope. What's so unique about this, is this is something that Christianity and only Christianity has to offer. When you look at every other world religion, and you look at every other philosophy, and we're the only one that provides assurance and hope that's solid.

I mean, think about it. Mohammed in the Koran wrote, this is Mohammed, the founder of Islam. He wrote, speaking of eternal security, he said, "What Allah will do with me, I don't know." I mean, the founder did not know what was going to happen with his future. He didn't. Buddhism teaches, "Well, if I can just be a good enough person, I'll relive this life a few times through incarnation, reincarnation, and then one day I'll reach nirvana where I'll just cease to exist." I'm like, "That doesn't sound hopeful at all." I'm pretty young right now, but this life is hard, so why would I want to live it over, and over, and over again to hopefully get to the point where I cease to exist? Then you can even take it out of the religious world into just philosophies of humanism where this is not bad. We want to do good things, we want to care for one another. This is what it teaches. As humans, we want to love humans well. We want to be good moral people, so that's not bad.

The problem with that is that gives no hope in death, it gives no hope in death. I mean, you could be a great person your whole life and then when you die you think, "Well, what now? If this is life, is all there is, then it's hopelessness." But if you look at Christianity, this is why Paul I think says, "We want you to know this hope." If you look at Christianity, it gives hope in all these areas. We have assurance of our eternal salvation, because it's not found in us, it's found in Christ. It's gripped in his hand. We have hopes through the difficulties of this life, because we know that Christ is going to fix them and make all things right. We have hope in death because Christ rose from the dead, showing that we have victory even in the worst defeat. Another place in the Bible, in 1 Peter chapter 3 it says it like this, speaking of our hope, verse 15, it says, "But let your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy."

Listen to this, “Always being ready and prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for the reason for ...” “What? “Your hope that is in you. Yet, do it in gentleness and respect.” This verse assumes that as believers, people would ask us about the hope that we have. Because he says, “Hey, be ready. When people see the hope, and see how you view things different, and they ask you, ‘Why do you hope like that?’ That you would have a response to give them.” Now my question and my application to this point of, okay, knowing and experiencing God’s hope is this, are we hoping loud enough? Are we as Christians hoping loud enough? Do we look any different from everybody else around us? There should be a difference. We should have this certainty of hope that we have in Christ, and knowing it, and experiencing it. All of this is great and it’s found, solidified in Christ.

If you don’t have that hope, how do you get that hope? It’s not found in your good works, it’s found in what Christ has done for you through his death and his resurrection on the cross. We have hope in Christ. We look to him and we pray, just like Paul prayed right here, “God, enlighten our hearts that we would believe.” I honestly believe there’s probably people in this room that want to believe in God, but there’s just a hardness of your heart. There’s just something you can’t see. You want to believe, but there’s a hardness there. Pray like Paul prayed right here, “God, enlighten my heart that I would see and I would believe in your goodness, in your greatness. Give me this hope that we find here in the scriptures.” Paul could’ve stopped with hope, but he didn’t. Look at the second half of verse 18, he also wants them to know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, okay?

We read that we think, “What is this religious mumbo jumbo? What is he saying right here,” right? You would think in context that he would be saying, “The riches of our glorious inheritance in the saints,” but what does he say there? What are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints? This is God’s inheritance that we’re talking about right here. What he wants us to know, what this passage is saying, is he wants you to know, he wants me to know, our worth to God. We need to know our worth to God. I mean, think about it. Have you ever tried to buy something for somebody who has everything, like a really rich wealthy person? You’re thinking, “Well, if they needed something, they would just go buy it themselves anyway, so what can I even get for this person that has everything,” right? It’s the same here. It’s like, “Okay God, what can we bring to you? You already have everything.”

I love how one pastor said it and he said it like this, “The one thing that God didn’t have and he was willing to go to a bloody cross on Calvary to obtain, was you, was you.” Don’t miss this. God who spoke everything into existence could’ve just wiped the creation board clean and started over, right? He could’ve just been like, “Nope, y’all messed up, sinned. We’re done,” and wiped it completely clean, but he didn’t. He came to rescue and to save you. Now why this is such a big deal is creation cost God nothing, but to save you and to save me, cost him his very life. This is almost too glorious to understand. I mean, we are considered worthy in God’s eyes. He deeply loves us. He walked through some of the greatest shame and humiliation and pain that the world has ever seen in order to save you, because he loves you deeply.

Some of you may have seen this movie Taken, and I'm kind of surprised that they made three of them, because if you get taken once, I understand. Twice, okay. Three times, you probably just need to stay at home for the rest of your life. They made three movies and the first one Liam Neeson's in it, and he's the father, and his daughter goes on a trip to Europe and she gets kidnapped, and sold into human trafficking. It's a sad, sad picture, but that's what happened. Her father goes to rescue her and saves her. He's a Green Beret and he has a particular set of skills that he's going to go and rescue his daughter. What he does is he goes over there and he goes to some of the darkest, damp, worst places you can imagine in order to rescue his daughter. He rescues her and he brings her home. Now, can you imagine? This isn't in the movie, but can you imagine two, three years down the road we see his daughter and she's just crying, and her head's low, and we're like, "Hey, what's wrong?"

She's like, "Nobody loves me. Nobody cares about me. Nobody cares for me." We'd be like, "Are you kidding me? You don't remember what your dad did? He basically went over to Europe and lit it on fire to save you. He went to extremes to save you. How can you feel like you don't matter and you're not worthy and you're not valuable?" But that's what we do to God all the time. We think, "Nobody loves me and I'm not worthy to be accepted by anybody." God the Father who sent his son down the cross will look at you and say, "You're loved. You're loved." If you ever have any doubt, look to the cross. Look to Christ. He loves you and he loves you deeply. Believe and trust in that. Believe, and trust, and know that when God looks at you, he sees a precious jewel. When he looks at us, he sees absolute beauty. When he looks at you, he sees something absolutely exquisite because of what Christ has done and the fact that you're in Christ. You're loved.

Now what I would say we do with this, how do we apply this truth, not just to know more facts but experiences, we have to live knowing we are loved. We have to live differently. Patrick Carnes, who's one of the leading voices in our country today on addiction, has written a number of books, was wrestling through this question on why people are addicted to drugs, and sex, and pornography, greed. Why are they addicted to these different things? His answer, the root of it, really surprised me when I read it, but the root of it for him was that he said, "People are addicted to these things, they grasp at things that ultimately destroy us, because they feel unloved, or unlovely." They feel unloved or unlovely. Maybe you're not addicted to these different things, but you're trying to grasp at your job, or your marital status, or your bank account to find worth and security and you're not going to find it there.

It's found in Christ who never moves, who's never changing. That's where we find our hope and our rest, so we can say things when we know this truth and we've experienced this truth. We can say, "Even if I don't get this, I have more than I could ever imagine. Even if I don't have this, even if I'm not accepted by that person, not loved by that person, I'm loved in Christ. I'm loved by the one that literally spoke all things into existence. I'm already cared for. I'm already loved by God." The last thing Paul wants us to see in this text is that we would know the power of God. We would know the power of God. Look at verse 19. He says, this is the same sentence but that they would know, "What is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe." How do you measure God's power, right? Do you do it in ounces? Do you do it in pounds?

Do you do it in liters? I mean, how do you measure God's greatness?

There's not enough words in all of the languages to exhaust God's greatness. That's why he says here, "It's immeasurable." You can't measure it. There's not a beaker that's big enough to measure the greatness of God. It would overflow all of the things. It exhausts every language. Paul tries to scratch the surface just a little bit on what God's greatness looks like, how we can know God's greatness. The first thing he starts with is Christ's resurrection. Look in verse 20, "This great power that worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead." Now, this is interesting. Why in the world would Paul choose the resurrection to be the first step to talk about God's greatness? Why not creation, right? I mean, there's a lot of amazing powerful things you could point out in creation, right? Certain trees that are really strong. You could look at the weather and say, "Look at these storms that are so vast and so powerful." You could point to those.

You could point to the night sky and look at all the stars, the trillions of stars out there and say, "Man, look at all of the stuff that God's done," and pointed to those powers. I mean, it's amazing. If you look at just the stars alone, one of the stars in our Milky Way system is five million times brighter than our sun. It would be more than a trillion megaton bomb that all of these stars are putting out every second. Paul could've pointed to that and said, "Look at the great power and might of God," but he doesn't. He starts here with the resurrection. Now I think the reason why Paul starts here is because we are knee deep, we're actually in over our heads in death. Everything around us is decaying, and dissolving, and breaking, and Paul looks at that death and he speaks into it. I mean, think about it.

Everything that we hate from diseases, to when the storms come, the ultimate end to those things is death. Paul speaks to the very thing that's final for all of us, the darkest of things, and he speaks to that, and he says, "Yes, God has greatness and power over that. The very worst thing that you can think of, God has power over that." Now why that matters to you guys and why that matters to me is because that gives us amazing hope. This is why if God can look at the worst thing in the world at death and he can redeem it and fix it, then no matter what's going on in your life, he can redeem and fix that. It doesn't matter how much sin you've committed or how dark of a place you feel like you're in right now, there is hope for you and there is hope in the greatness of God. He starts, he's like, "Imagine the worst thing possible. God came down into that, and he has power over that, and he's strengthens us through that."

This is the truth that we need to experience, the worst of things he can heal and fix. He can wipe away our sin and make us clean. This is the God in whom we serve. As we look at the resurrection and we see the greatness of God, what this does, is it declares that God lives forever and if we believe in him, we too shall live forever. He also says about the greatness of God that he, Jesus is far above ... This is verse 21, "He's far above every rule and authority and power and dominion. He moves from the resurrection which proclaims that God will live forever." Then he says, "Now look at exaltation, God reigns forever." He lives forever and he reigns forever. This is the greatness of our God. I mean, he reigns forever. There's no position that's greater than Jesus Christ. From governments to galaxies, God is over all of those things. That is the God in whom we praise, the one that we just sang to. That is the one that we worship. 8

What's amazing as you see all the different pictures as people come before Christ who is claimed to be seated in this passage, he's seated at the right-hand of the Father. Everywhere else in scripture you see angels coming before God and they stand in attention, or they fall on their faces before him. Yet, Christ is seated because he is over all of these things. Time is not over him. He says, "He's above every name." This is name not only in this age, but also in the one to come. Time does not contain our God. He's greater than that. The grave cannot contain our God. He's greater than that. He's far above all of these things. Then the last thing he mentions here that we would kind of scratch our heads over that shows the greatness of God is his church. Look at verse 22 again. He says, "And he put all things under his feet and gave to him head over all things to the church." As he's measuring the greatness of God, trying to. Like I said, it's just a scratch of the surface.

He says, "Look at the church." Now, why in the world would he point to the church here, right? Because we think, honestly, in the world and culture we live in, the church is kind of peripheral. We got to live our lives and we've got to a government and a culture that's much more important and eats a lot of our time. Yet here, he says, "Hey, look at the church." I think the reason why is because it's amazing that the church is still in existence. Think about it. The devil has been warning against the church since it was founded. There'll be people that hate the church, would love to see our doors close and never open up again. I've talked to people who claim to be Christians and say, "Hey, I love Christ, but I don't love his church. I want nothing to do with that." You hear all those things and like, "How in the world does the church keep going then? How is the church surviving when basically everything is against it?"

It's because Christ is over it and it's his body. He's the one that sustains it and strengthens it through generation, to generation, to generation. Every Fortune 500 company is going to end one day, it's going to end, but the church will echo through all of eternity. It will never end because Christ is the Great One who's sustaining the church. It wasn't too long ago, I guess it was about a year ago now, my wife and I, my daughter, we went to the zoo, the Asheboro Zoo. Which I don't know if this is true or not, I was driving down the road and they had a billboard that said, "World's largest zoo." I don't know if that's true or not, but that's what they claim. We go there and since it's the world's largest zoo there's tons of animals that we can see. We see polar bears, and lions, and alligators, and all this different stuff. Well, we get towards the end of our time and I walk up on this cage and there's a bird inside this cage.

This is what I see in this cage. I see this bird ... Yeah, right there. I'm like, "Man, that's incredible." Then I look down at the little title for it and it says, "Peregrine falcon." Now, I know a little bit about this bird and so when I read the title and I see it, my jaw just drops. I'm just like, "That's a peregrine falcon right there." My wife comes up beside me with my daughter and she's like, "What?" I said, "Babe, honey, that's a peregrine falcon." She's like, "It looks like a bird on a branch to me. I don't know." She kind of shrugs her shoulders and starts to walk away. I'm like, "No babe, you don't understand. That bird can fly 240 miles an hour." She's like, "Okay." She just kind of walks on. I'm standing there and I thought in that moment, I'm like, "This cage does not do justice to that bird. That cage does not do justice to the greatness of that bird. It can fly 240 miles an hour."

I think in the same way that we speak of the greatness of God, but then we try to cage him in our lives, and put him in a compartment of our lives, and it does not do justice to the greatness of our King. It just doesn't. We say things like, "I know that I will be resurrected one day and Christ is over death." Yet, when we go through some of the darkest moments of health issues, we go into the deepest darkest depressions of our lives. We know one thing, but our lives proclaim something different. Where we can say, "Okay God, I know the facts that you created all things by speaking a word and all things were made and yet, we worry, 'God, I know you can create everything with one word, but can you open up a door for a job for me? I don't know. I don't know if I can trust God in that.'"

All those different things, what we're doing is we're making God seem small when he is much, much greater than that. He could be trusted for our eternal salvation and our momentary needs. All of that is found in Christ because of his immeasurable greatness that we find in God. Now his greatness doesn't mean that we're not going to walk through hard and difficult times, because we absolutely will. What it means is, we don't have to walk through these times alone. That we have strength that walks with us during these times, so when our economy fails, we have hope not in our bank accounts, and not in our jobs, but in our Savior, in our God. We must know the greatness of God, because the reality is this, his power is never stagnant, it's never out of commission. It's always actively working in your life and in my life. We must believe and know this truth in a personal way.

This has been several years ago now, but my wife's grandfather passed away. They live out in Tennessee, really beautiful area. A lot of farm land out there at the bottom of the mountains, the Appalachian Mountains. It's a really beautiful area. We go out there for the funeral and as we go to the grave site and the casket's being lowered into the ground, the pastor says, "If you know this Psalm," and then he says, "Psalm 23, would you repeat it with me?" We're standing around, and I don't know, 20 or 30 people around us. It's amazing, because I'm looking at people in this circle and as they repeat Psalm 23, I mean, they were saying it verbatim. They were saying every word of this Psalm and I look at that and I'm like, "They know the Psalm, but they don't know the shepherd. They know these facts from the Bible, but they don't know him in a real and personal way."

Paul's fear when he writes this and my fear is that we would know these facts about God, but we would not really know him. We would know the Psalms, but we wouldn't know the shepherd. We would know God's word, but not the one who wrote God's word. We have to know these things in a real and personal way to the glory of God's great name, because through it we find hope, we find worth, and we find power. Let's pray. God, thank you. Thank you, that we can know these truths, but that they're much deeper than words on a page.

God, that these words are meant to be lived out. These words are relevant. God, that you aren't distant or far and from us, but God you are near to us at our deepest needs. God, I ask that this week you would give us a hope, that hope so loudly that people would ask us about it. God, I pray for those in here right now that don't have hope, Lord, that they would look to you today and find hope in you. God, you are great, and you are good, and we thank you for these truths. It's in Christ's great and holy name we pray, Amen.



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