

# Hope, Riches and Power

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 1:18-23.

B. Growth in Christians requires instruction of the mind and the prayerful enlightenment of the heart.

C. Paul understands the need of the Christians—that they are lukewarm and need their faith stirred.

## II. Paul's prayer.

A. That the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened.

B. That they would know the hope they were called to, the riches that they have, and the power from God.

## III. We all know the need of hope.

A. Hope is essential along with faith and love.

B. Hope is for the glory that is coming—the certainty of a new humanity. (Romans 8)

C. The Scriptures do not teach that this is not going to happen all at one moment—it is something that is happening right now.

## IV. Paul wants the Christians to capture the sense of God at work in their present events.

A. Paul's answer is that they would know the riches of their inheritance as saints—that we belong to Him.

B. God is with you, so reach out and try something new instead of waiting upon Him.

## V. Paul wants the Christians to know the immeasurable riches of God's power.

A. The answer to fear is power.

B. This is no ordinary power—it is resurrection power that raises from the dead.

C. It is independent of any other power and makes no display.

D. Resurrection power is the kind that works when you are feeling weak—not strong.

E. God gives us power to be what He wants to be and what we want to be as well.

**Application questions:**

1. How do hope, riches and power address the problem of being lukewarm?

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2. To what do hope, riches and power refer?

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3. What area of your life could you use some spiritual energy? How can Ephesians 1 help you in this regard?

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