

## Pastor Andrew's Weekly Thought

### Enjoying our salvation

**Ephesians 1:17-19** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.<sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Many Christians think that they will enjoy salvation when they finally reach heaven after they die. The full enjoyment of salvation in heaven is right but usually such an understanding carries with it a wrong understanding of salvation. The Bible presents salvation as something that has already begun and to be enjoyed now, not just then. And if we are not experiencing salvation now, how are we to expect that we will enjoy it then? It is paramount that we ensure that we will enjoy salvation in heaven, and the surest way to know that is to be enjoying it now – though not in its fullness.

John 17:3 states, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” In John’s Gospel, eternal life or salvation begins now, and eternal life means knowing God. In my sermon on Saturday night on the parable of the Hidden Treasure, I said this treasure is our salvation (or God’s kingdom or Christ Himself). And the way to enjoy Christ is to be filled with His Word. It is as you meditate on His Word that His Spirit applies the truth into your heart. You will then be filled with hope, riches and power of God.

When Paul prays for the Ephesian Christians, what did he pray? What does he think that Christians really need? Here is his prayer: “God,...the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.” Do we normally pray that Christians may know God better? I think most Christians pray in their own tunnel vision for travel mercy, good results, good health, no accident, etc. etc. But what is really needed is that each Christian ought to know God better. To know God means to know the hope God has called us to, the riches of his glorious inheritance, and the power He has given us.

If every Christian has this knowledge, we will each be filled with confidence, love, energy, vision, zeal, and power to live for and serve God. The church will be so much stronger with strong Christians, the world will sit up and wonder why Christians are such special people! Whether they have accidents or not, good health or not, good results or not, they are only secondary or even irrelevant because in any circumstance, Christians are more than conquerors of every situation.

If you are enjoying salvation today, which Christ promised you to have abundantly, you will be full of love, joy, peace and hope of Christ. You will be filled with thanksgiving and praises. You will be filled with confidence and readiness to tell of God’s goodness to others. This is the experience of salvation!

So how do we treasure Christ? We keep praying and dwelling in God’s Word. We pray for “the Spirit of wisdom and revelation”, and for “the eyes of your heart [to] be enlightened” to our treasurers in Christ! Martin Luther says, “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” Without breathing there is no biological life; without prayer there is no spiritual life. So keep praying and keep remaining in the Word. Prayer and the Word are what will focus your heart on your real treasure in Christ. Enjoying Christ is your salvation!

**Prayer:** Lord, open the eyes of my heart to see how rich my treasures are in Christ. Let Your Holy Spirit take Your Word to enlighten me of those treasurers.