

Holy Heartburn

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Slide2-4 Larry: Peru Trip Fundraiser. Women's Craft Boutique. Intro Parenting Video.

B. Slide5 Parenting Seminar: *How do we instill lasting faith in young people?*

A team of 4 couples from our church (all at diff levels of child rearing) have come together to help you, help set your students on a trajectory of lifelong faith & service.

[Paulsen's, Roth's, Thompson's & Bell's]

1. Watching aprox 50% of our graduates drift away after HS is **unacceptable!**

2. This is not just for parents, **but for** grandparents, aunts/uncles, legal guardians, & **anyone** who has a loving close relationship w/a child.

a) **See**, you'll receive *practical tools*, **but** it will also spark discussions regarding **your unique situation**, w/*pre-video questions, video, & post-video questions*...ultimately you'll get to *talk, think & brainstorm*...**How to pass on Jesus**. [Fuller Sem, 6yr rsrch, 500 grad]

3. This **free**, 5 session, Parenting Seminar, **starts up Sun Sept.10th**. During 3rd service, for 5 consecutive weeks (make use of our children's church). **Grab flyer in info booth**

C. Slide6 Sun Night of Prayer next Sun.

II. Slide7,8 **Intro: Holy Heartburn**

A. Last week Paul completed his 203 word sentence of blessing. It included being: *Chosen; adopted; graciously favored; redeemed; forgiven; His revealed will to us; made us an inheritance; sealed; gave the H.S. as a deposit.*

1. **Now** Paul's thanksgiving for **God's plan of salvation** in Christ (last section) **overflows into prayer** (vs.15-23).

2. As vs.3-14 was 1 long run on sentence in the orig, **here we have another**.

a) 1st **preaches** to them...**now prays** for them.

B. Slide9 Paul shares 2 prayers in Ephesians. Here in 1:15-23 **That you may know** (1:18)

It's a prayer for **Enlightenment** [knowing what God has done for you in Christ].

And, in 3:13-21 **That you may be** (3:19) **Enablement** [experiencing His blessings].

C. (15,16) His prayer starts out with **thanksgiving** over the saints **faith & love**.

D. After demonstrating that believers have *all spiritual blessings* (3-14), Paul now prays that believers would come to *know God intimately* (17) in order that they might know 3 facts:

III. Slide10 **KNOW GOD INTIMATELY (17,18a)** *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding(heart) being enlightened;*

A. 1st step to *Knowing God* is *saving faith*. 2nd step is *knowing Him better* which is meant here.

1. It involves more than knowing just **facts** about Him. **Facts are helpful...but not enough.**

B. *The eyes of your understanding(heart) being enlightened* –

1. Remember the song by Paul Baloche wrote, *Open the eyes of my heart Lord.*

2. Slide11a This is done by opening our **spiritual eyes**. Jn.9:39 *For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.* (obviously speaking spiritually, not physically)

3. Many Christians have learned a lot **about God**, **but what about experiencing Him?** [it's using our other eyes]

a) *Our spiritual eyes* absorb reality at the innermost level of our being.

The eyes of our heart are like an instrument that is used to perceive and understand deep truth and deep reality.

b) 1st truth comes to our **minds**, **but** for truth to truly take hold of us, it must penetrate all the way to the **heart**. **Only when this happens** can our **will** be properly energized and motivated. *It's Holy Heart-burn!*

(1) Remember in Lk.24. Jesus (post res) meets up w/2 disciples on the road to Emmaus. They didn't know it was Him. They converse. He stays w/them for the evening, has supper, took/blessed/broke bread, **then** vanished. They said, *Didn't our heart burn w/in us while He talked w/us on the road & while He opened the Scriptures to us.* Holy Heart-burn!

4. Slide11b Jeremiah said, *let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me* (9:24). [cognitive & acquaintance]

a) The word *know* (*yada*) means far more than **intellectual** knowledge.

- b) It conveyed the sense of a close personal relationship; and protection. It was even used of the *intimate relations* experienced by a husband and wife.
- C. Slide12 Illus: They say there are 2500 *dating web sites* in US & 5000 worldwide. 25 major one's (1 million current/active/unique users...like match, eHarmony, okCupid, christianmingle, plenty of fish, etc.)
1. Let's say you find a number of people that seem interesting. **Would you run out & marry the person who had the best written profile?**
 - a) We need to **spend some time with the person & get to know them** before we decide that we **love** them.
 2. Slide13 The same is true of God. His word should **warm our hearts**, & **intrigue our minds** as we read about the miraculous, & His loving nature, **but** we fall in love with Him by **starting a relationship with Him** & having our own **personal interaction** with Him.
 3. That's what we do when we *open the eyes of our heart*.
 - a) We move beyond just seeing Him with our **physical eyes**, **by reading & learning about Him through the bible**, & we see Him for who He truly is...**a loving God**, who wants a *love relationship w/us* that moves beyond head knowledge.
- D. Let's look at some more *illustrations* logically & analytically.
1. Slide14 Music – A sheet of music is only a mathematical representation of it, only sticks & dots on a lined page. **Or**, I can show you my *sound level meter app*, which measures the decibel of the music. **[But this isn't experiencing music!]**
 - a) You really need to **hear/feel** music to experience it. [Give me my iPod, w/my Bose 2 headphones]
 2. Slide15,16 Sunset – You can even describe color mathematically. **[But this isn't experiencing a sunset]**
 - a) You really need to **see orange** to know how it looks.
 3. Slide17a/b Steak – You can describe a steak anatomically (phys structure).
 - a) But you'll never experience **your taste buds dancing** from the wonderful explosion of a BBQ'd steak (medium rare) in your mouth, until you enjoy one yourself.

4. Slide18a/b You can describe God *theologically* (& list out his attributes, creation, redemption & such) but unless we experience God ourselves we will never truly know him.

a) *Taste & see that the Lord is good.* Ps.34:8. We must open the eyes of our heart to see & know Him *more*.

E. We must not see with only our regular eyes because...

1. Trials will never make sense. Hard times will never make sense. Death will never make sense. Pain & illness will never make sense. Spiritual warfare will never make sense.

a) We must see past our current situation, & know our loving God is on our side & looking out for our good.

F. How did Paul do it? Sounds like, *in prayer*, in communion with Him.

1. Not with *new knowledge* to the brain, but *changing the disposition* of the heart.

2. The whole Christian life involves an *unfolding & enlarging of the hearts openness* to the things of God.

3. We don't need *more truth*, or *better truth*, we just need our spiritual eyes *open* to the truths.

G. After praying they would know God *intimately* (17) he prays they would know **3 facts**:
(1) the **past** call of salvation that produced hope (18a). **(2)** the **future** inheritance that God has in His saints (18b). **(3)** the **present** power of God that's available to believers (19-23)

IV. Slide19 **KNOW ABOUT THE PAST (18b)** *what is the hope of his calling.*

A. Fact #1 pertains to our **past**. A believer's **present hope** has its source in the **past**, when he/she was called to **salvation**.

1. **Hope** in Scripture is *the absolute certainty of a believer's victory in God.*

2. So we have this blessed **hope** for all eternity that depends **not on our goodness** but on His **grace**.

V. Slide20 **KNOW ABOUT THE FUTURE (18c)** *what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*

- A. **Fact #2** pertains to our **future**. Out into the future, at the time of *the great resurrection of the saints*, those set apart by God to God. God will **inherit** those whom He has purchased at a great price according to the riches of His grace.
1. This **isn't** a reference to *our inheritance we receive in him* (11) but to **His inheritance in us!**
 2. We are **His treasure** in the field He bought. We are **His expensive pearl** He bought.
 - a) Mt.13:44-46^{nlt} **The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. 45 Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!**
 3. And all because of *His glorious grace* (6) of *our glorious Father* (17), He will receive *His glorious inheritance* (18) you & me :)

VI. **Slide21 KNOW ABOUT THE PRESENT (19-23)** *what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.*

- A. **Fact #3** pertains to our **present**. His incomparably great **power** for us who believe.
1. **Power/dunamis** - means *a spiritually dynamic and living force*.
 2. This power of God is directed *toward believers*.
- B. **Paul then used 3 additional words to describe God's power:** *according to the working of His mighty power.*
1. **Working** - *energeia* (energay-a) **energetic power**, where we get our word **energy**.
 2. **Mighty** - *ischys* (esKuse), God's inherent strength which He provides.
 3. **Power** - *kratous* (kratos) power that overcomes resistance, as in Christ's miracles; this word is used only of God, **never** of believers.
 - a) This magnificent *accumulation of words for power* underscores the magnitude of **God's great power** available to Christians, **available now** for our **daily lives**.
 - b) *Oh, that you would have experiential knowledge, the realization & confidence that as believers we possess divine power.*

- c) Christ has already won the victory over *sin, death, the world, and Satan*.
- d) So we do not fight **for** victory **but from** victory. *We are seated with Him in the heavenly places, where there is power, peace, and victory. (wow!)*

(1) (2:6) Not only has God **made us alive and raised us** with Christ, **but** He has also **seated us** with Him in the heavenly places.

(a) *We are positioned* spiritually in heaven, where Christ is. [standing/state positional/exp]

(b) *We are no longer mere earthlings; our citizenship is in heaven* (Phil.3:20).

(c) *Jesus is* the exalted Son of God, **and we are** exalted sons/daughters of God.

C. *Slide22a* Next, Paul mentioned **3 manifestations of God's power** which are seen in Christ (20-23).

D. The present power of God that is available to believers (1) was manifested in the **past** in Christ's resurrection and Ascension (2) will be manifested in the **future** in Christ's headship over Creation (3) is **presently** manifested in Christ's headship over the church.

1. **22b Past** - God's energetic power which resurrected & exalted Christ in the past.

a) *This power is the same power* available to believers in the present.

b) *What an amazing source of spiritual vitality, power, and strength for living the Christian life.*

c) Christ's Ascension to the right hand of God involves His being exalted *above every order of authority*, human and superhuman, *whether present, or in the future.*

2. **22c Future** - will be manifested in the future in Christ's headship over Creation.

a) Whereas **Adam** lost his headship over Creation when he sinned, **Christ** was made Head over all Creation (vs.10). *This will be fully realized in the future.*

3. **22d Present** - presently manifested in Christ's headship over the church.

a) He is **now** Head over the fellowship of believers.

b) *The church is His body*, the universal church consisting of **all believers**, *which is the fullness of Him who fills all in all, or everything in every way.*

E. **Pray this prayer** for yourself, for your spouse, your friends, your church, your church leaders.