



Scriptures

- **Ephesians 1:17-18; 3:1; & 4:1**

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

^{3:1}For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

⁴Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

- **John 17:22-23**

²²The glory which you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as we are one. ²³ I in them and you in me.

- **2 Thess. 2:14**

¹⁴ It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Romans 8:29-30**

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Other Scriptures

- Isaiah 45:5-7
- I Cor. 2:8
- 2 Cor. 2:9-10; 3:18
- I Peter 4:14; 5:10
- Rom. 8:29-30



Main Points

- Paul was the prisoner of the Lord.
 - Paul filtered his circumstantial situation through the sovereignty of God.
 - Viewing life as a victim of circumstances creates turmoil, not peace.
- Our lives are dictated by the sovereign hand of God.
 - Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha Olam
 - Blessed are you O Lord our God, **King** of the Universe
- Paul's prayer for us in Ephesians 1:17-18 is to:
 - Know God
 - The hope of our calling
 - We are chosen! (Eph. 1:4)
 - We are predestined (Eph. 1:5)
 - We are blessed with every spiritual blessing. (Eph. 1:3)
 - Understand the riches of God's glory that is in us.
 - The Father of glory
 - We are children of glory, because He is in us.
 - Glory-Kavod or rich, heavy, weighty, great, deep, and valuable.
 - That glory is in us, our inheritance.
 - We are going to a glorious place—heaven.
 - We are being changed from glory to glory. (2 Cor. 3:18)
- Humility is the open channel of change.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you view the circumstances of your life? Do you place blame? Do you foster bitterness? Do you give in to the negative voices that desire you to give up? Or do you allow pride in yourself to dominate? If a good God is the sovereign hand dictating them, what should your view be then? How can you cultivate a correct view and set things right? Begin a conversation with God right now toward that goal.
2. Compare the worldview of this life with a worldview of our calling by God and His glory at work in us. Does this set you free from chains of discouragement and victimization? How so?
3. Humility is the channel of change. What does this mean? What does it mean in your life? Be specific!