

Ephesians 1: 15-23

“What’s our Reputation ”

Heard about your faith- What have people heard about us? Have they heard about us at all? How did they hear about us? Was it good or bad? How do we spread it?

Reputation: Their reputation won them a place in Paul’s **prayers**.

*It is hard to gain a good reputation and easy to loose it. However it is harder still to **regain** a good reputation.*

What kind of reputation are people looking for today in the church? Same as they were when this was written- a place of Faith, Hope, and Love.
We see these also spoken of in I Corinthians 13.

To many times Faith and Hope get lumped together but they are separate and unique things.

Faith: is **entrusting** our lives to Jesus Today (**present** tense).

Hope: Is about the **future**. Where is it that our present trust in Jesus will eventually lead us? This hope requires wisdom, knowledge, and insight into the glorious heavenly inheritance that awaits the believer.

Paul’s prayer: v18-20

Eyes of your **heart** are enlightened.

Know the Hope of **His** calling.

Riches of glory of His inheritance in the **saints**.

Greatness of His power for those who **believe**. Working in His strength and might.

All this brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in heavenly places.

Seating means the work is **done**.

Right hand is the symbolic place of **highest** honor.

Over every title even those in the heavenly realms.

He is not only head of the **church** but also as v10 points out He is over **everything**.

The power we can have is the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

This power ensures His rule: v21-23

With this new found knowledge and the power of God, we have no excuse not to spread the good news about God’s life transforming mission through Jesus Christ. We now have an obligation and compulsion and hopefully a burden to share this message of hope and life with others.