

## What Do You Know?

### I. When Run-on Sentences are Good!

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, *that you may know* what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.  
Ephesians 1:15-23

### II. Paul's Continual Thanksgiving for People and Remembrance of People are Powerful Marks of Authentic Love!

1. Thankful for their faith in Jesus
2. Thankful for their love for all the saints

“Learning the art of commendation is important for all Christians who desire to form churches of spiritual support. It takes no special skill to see what is wrong with people, and to criticize them. But to see people robed in righteousness not their own and to encourage them on this basis to be more of what they can be powerfully communicates the heart of Christ. The best people are those who develop the ability to see the good that is sprouting in people and water its growth with commendation, even when it is obvious to the leader that more growth is needed. We provide spiritual support by commending others for the good we see despite the growth they still need.”<sup>1</sup>

“I know your works, your toil and patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are called evil, but have tested those who call

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<sup>1</sup> Bryan Chapel

themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love that you had at the first. Remember..." – Revelation 2:3-4 (40 years later than the letter to the Ephesians)

### III. **Paul's Prayer Underscores His Desire for People to be so Heavenly Minded that they can be of Real Earthly Good!**

Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, "At such and such a place shall be my camp." But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there." And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice.

And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?" And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." It was told him, "Behold, he is in Dothan." So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ***Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see."*** So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:8-17

#### 1. **Hope!**

"We need to see the future clearly if we are to live in the present faithfully, because if we are too this-worldly minded we will be of little earthly use."<sup>2</sup>

#### 2. **Riches!**

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<sup>2</sup> Sinclair Ferguson

### **3. Power!**

#### **What Do You Know?**

“We live too often below the level of our privileges. Like mountaineers who reach high altitude we find it difficult to breathe in such rarefied atmosphere as this. Sadly, we are tempted to descend to lower ground, where the climbing is more manageable for our spiritual lungs. But if we cease to climb, we will never see the glorious realities that await our vision. No wonder, then, if we remain short-sighted Christians. May God open our eyes to see!”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Sinclair Ferguson