**Lessons from a Lockdown**

Rommel J. Casis

**Day 33**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 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. I pray 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 his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. What am I most grateful for when I think about other Christians?
2. What is the most important thing I can pray for people? Why?
3. Do I know God better now compared to one month ago? Why?
4. What were the three things Paul wanted them to see? How will seeing these things affect my life?
5. Am I drawing on the power God makes available for Christians?

***Insight:***

Paul kept asking God to give them the wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. The goal of having more wisdom is not to be smarter but to know God better. Our knowledge of God is supposed to grow over time. Are we making the effort to know God better? Reading the Bible is more than just getting more information and finding principles for life. We should know God more as we read the Scriptures. Are we seeking God when we have our quiet times every day? A heart that seeks God is not just for the lost but it is also for the saved. Do we want to know God better? Our answer reflects whether or not we love God. When we love someone, we want to know him better.

Paul prayed that they would know the hope to which they were called, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for those who believe.

*Hope.* Christians are called to hope. No matter how bad things may get, we know everything will work out. We always have something to look forward to. Why? This is because of the two other things Paul mentioned.

*Inheritance.* An inheritance is what we receive when another person dies. The inheritance Paul speaks of is what we receive when we die. So, we do not dread the day of our death like those without God, because on that day we receive the riches of our glorious inheritance. This is God’s reward for his holy people.

*Power.* Those who believe or those have faith, have access to an incomparably great power. Paul illustrates the immensity of this power by pointing out that it is the *same* as the mighty strength God exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms. Some have described this as “resurrection power.” But it is more than that. It is “heavenly ascension” power! It is the power to raise someone from the dead and place him at the seat of power in heaven. This is the power that God has made available to those who have faith. This is the power we draw on when we pray to God.

Sometimes we are so focused on our weaknesses and struggles that we do not see this power we can tap. What are we struggling with right now? Financial difficulties? Difficult relationships? Family problems? Worrying about the future? Sickness? Anger? Lack of Self-control? Impurity? Sin? Whatever it may be, God has made available to us the power to overcome. We have divine power available to us. All we must do is have faith and keep praying. God has given us more than enough power to change our lives. All we have to do is ask him and believe.

When we look at what is happening the world and at governments and leaders of the countries, we can worry about where the world is headed. But we need to remember that Jesus is “far above all rule and authority, power and dominion.” These presidents, prime ministers and other world leaders are not in control. God is. Our future does not does not depend on world leaders or governments but on God. God has placed all things under Jesus’ feet and appointed him to be head over everything. Why should we worry if Jesus is in control? In fact, Jesus is the head of everything “for the church.” The supremacy of Christ is for the sake of his church. We can therefore be confident that whatever God causes or allows to happen in the world, it is for the good of his church. So instead of worrying, we should look for the good that God intends.

The church is Jesus body. It is “the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” In the same way that God’s fullness dwells in Jesus, Christ’s fullness must dwell in the church. In the same way that God is revealed to humanity through Jesus, through the church Jesus is revealed to the world. Therefore, the church should reflect who Jesus is. We should strive to make the church Christ-like in every way. It begins with us individually persevering to be like Christ every day.

While on lockdown, let us know God better and remember the hope to which we were called, the inheritance waiting when we die, and the power we have as we continue to live like Christ.