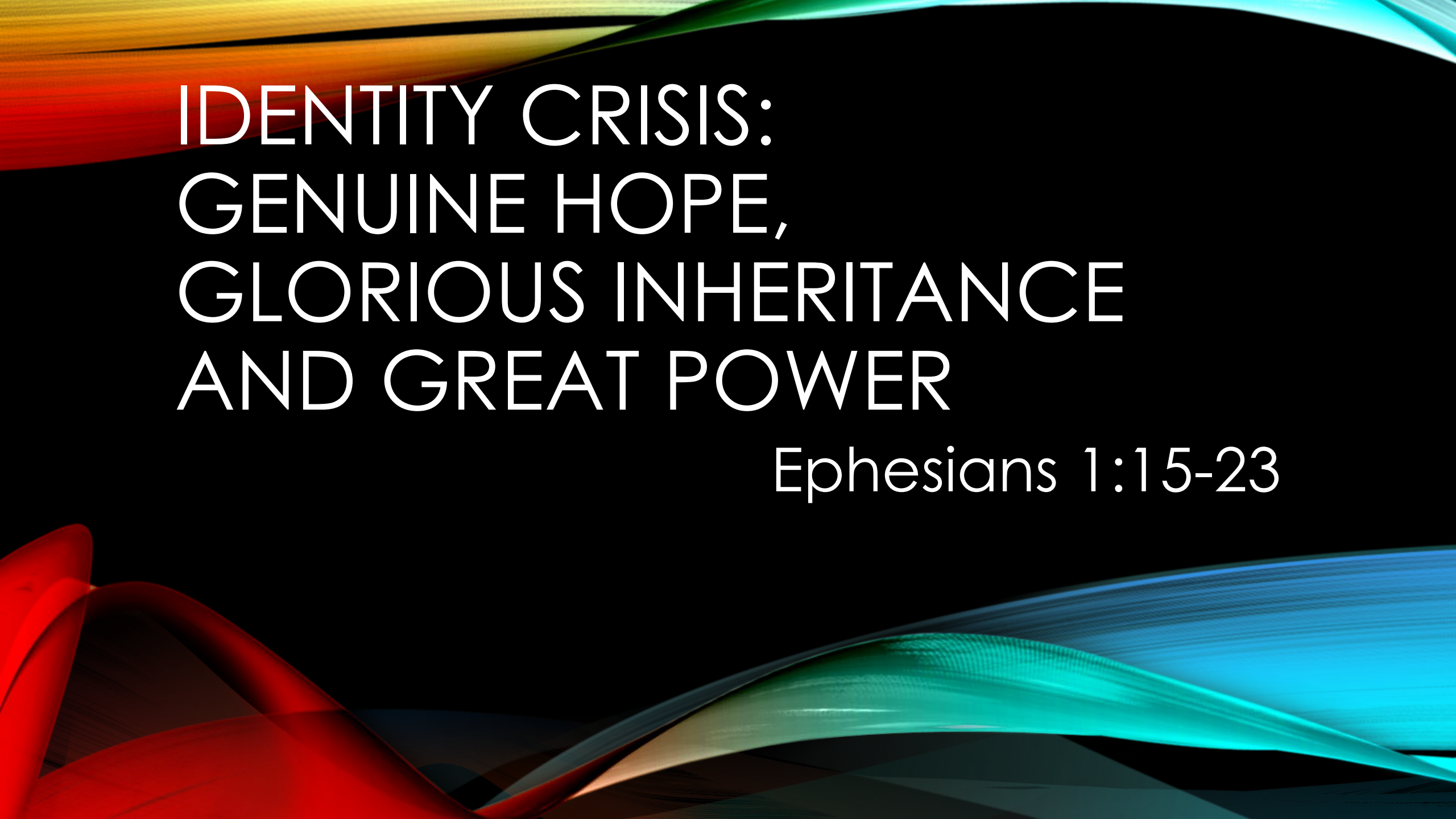




Paul opened this letter telling the Church in Ephesus
all about WHO they are in Christ.

Today's text moves into his prayer that those in Christ
will embrace these realities.

(BTW, instead of assuring someone, "I'll be praying for
you," as we often do, why not pray with them right
then? It's powerful.)



IDENTITY CRISIS: GENUINE HOPE, GLORIOUS INHERITANCE AND GREAT POWER

Ephesians 1:15-23



VS. 15-16

Paul turns from explaining to encouraging:

Their faith in Christ and their love for the saints (an evidence of sincere faith) was cause for Paul's continual rejoicing

“I remember you in my prayers.”
Such a great demonstration of love...



VSS. 17

“I keep asking...”

Persistence in prayer - Luke 11:5-13

For what? A spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Why? That they might know God better (Phil. 3:7-11)

Not for party tricks. Not to make much of them
(John 3:30)



VSS. 18-19A

Not new revelation, but clearer understanding of what we have in Christ. Specifically, that we may know:

The Hope to which He has called us.

The riches of His glorious inheritance.

His incomparably great power within us.



VSS. 19B-20

His power within us (Acts 1:8) is likened to the power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at the Father's right hand.

Once again, not praying that we receive new power,
but that God's power within us would be realized



VSS. 21-23

And then Paul closes his prayer with all attention on
Jesus.

Just as it should be.

Phil. 3:1-11