

A Study of Paul's letter  
To the Ephesians 1: 15-23  
Lesson 2

**Praying for Others.**

**Ephesians 1: 15-23 (NIV)**

*Examining the Text of the Prayer*

**15**For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, **16**I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

**17**I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,

- may give you the Spirit **18**of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.
- **18**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,
- **19**and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength **20**he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21**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.
- **22**And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23**which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**What is Prayer? (pg. 27)**

- God speaks to us through scripture, we speak to God through prayer.
- Paul recognizes that the Ephesians have the *vertical* dimension of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the *horizontal* dimension of love for God's people. Real Christians always demonstrate growth in both dimensions. *Pg. 28*
- Paul's Model for prayer
  - Regularly
  - Generously
  - For other people
  - Gratefully – appreciating God's work in the lives of the people and the church.
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- Paul's Prayer Request *pg. 29*
  - Unite all things.
  - Parade his victory over satan.

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**To Know God Better** Vs. 17

- Reflecting on the words of C.H. Spurgeon on page 31-32, how would you compare the effects of prayer in your life? What is our experience?

Listen to these words.

- Consolatory
  - A balm for every wound
  - A quietus for every grief
  - A balsam for every sore
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- Paul asks God for the holy Spirit to bless the people with the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding of God as revealed in scripture. *Vs – 17, Pg. 32*
    - The Spirit of wisdom OT
    - The Spirit of revelation (Paul)
- 
- Let us pray for each other, not just to be happy, but to know God better. For in the glories of his being and his works, God is the source of the deepest satisfaction and joy to his adopted children. *(pg. 34)*

**PART 2** pg. 39

**To Know Greater Hope** Vs 18

*<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,*

- Our perspectives depend upon our values, which are shaped by the affections of our heart. *(Reflect and discuss)*
- When our hearts are transformed, we will know the hope to which we were called.
- Being a Christian is essentially about living a life of confident hope that is unique to the world. *(Reflect and discuss)*

**Inheritance** page 37

- Whose inheritance?
- His chosen, redeemed, adopted, and sealed us as his children to enjoy us with abundant blessings forever as his inheritance.
- God is preparing for our arrival. He will raise us to join him.

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**To Know His Power** Vs. 19 -23

- All those who believe will experience the power of God to raise us.
- Paul offers three reassurances that our resurrection is justified.
  - Vs 19,20 – the power demonstrated in the raising of Christ from the dead. He raised his Son and we will raise us too.
  - Vs 21-22 - Our resurrection is secure by Christ's dominion.
  - Vs -23 – The Church is the body of Christ.

**Summary**

Paul prays that the Ephesians would be strengthened by knowing that their hope of heaven is certain because God has already raised Christ. Paul gives thanks for the hope that Christ is now sovereign above all our enemies, because he has been appointed King over His body *the church* to bring assurance that he will bring his people home to be with him forever.

When we pray, let us pray that we know God better, understand the hope to which he's called us, and know the power which he has committed to bring us home to be with him. Give thanks for -

HOPE and ASSURANCE. – A two-word summary.