

Ephesians 1:15-23

Week 2 - Thanksgiving and Prayer

Our last lesson of Ephesians broke down Paul's greeting to the saints of Ephesus. He now transitions into thanksgiving and prayer as he closes out chapter one. You may have talked about what it means to be adopted by God, your identity in Christ, and God's nature. This lesson will add onto those topics.

Ephesians 1:15–23 (NIV)

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 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.

? In verse 18, Paul prays that the Ephesians would have an enlightened heart. What do you think that looks like?

? Paul highlights a few things that should give the Christians in Ephesus hope. What are these and why do they offer hope?

? Look at the way Paul prays for the Christians in Ephesus. How does it express love? How might it be a good model for us to pray for others?

? Starting in verse 19, Paul speaks of God's great power, what is that exactly?

? How has God's great power been borne out in your own life?

Romans 8:26-28 (NIV)

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

? Based on these verses, what can we know about God's power within us?

? Have you experienced God's power firsthand? What was that like?

? Has your inheritance in Christ ever impacted your self-worth? How should God's value in you affect how you see yourself?

? How is it to our benefit that Jesus is the head of the church?

For Discussion And Accountability

? In what areas do the eyes of your heart need to be enlightened this week?

? In light of your inheritance in Christ, how can you love others more boldly tomorrow?