

Faith and Love

Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 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, 18 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, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 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. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Paul lets the church know what he has been praying for them, starting with what he is thankful for – their faith in Jesus and love for each other.

- 1) **What have you seen churches get excited about in the past? What about you – what have you tended to most love and invest yourself in when it comes to the Christian life?**
- 2) **How does keeping the things Paul mentioned central to the church help us do life together as the church?**

Paul spends most of this passage asking that God would enable them to see and understand that the saving work done for them in Jesus. Rather than giving them new things to do, he wants them to be able to hold onto what Jesus has done.

- 3) **Western Christianity has no shortage of fads or trends to level up our Christian life. How does this passage free us from always chasing what is new and next?**

Paul prays specifically that they'll be able to grasp the hope of their calling, the riches of their inheritance, and the greatness of God's power toward them.

- 4) **Why is it so hard to trust Christ even when we have such great unshakable promises? What things make it most difficult for you personally to remember these things?**
- 5) **How does this passage help us to know how to encourage each other?**
- 6) **How does love for one another flow out of the rest and riches we have from trusting Jesus finished work?**

Some things you can be praying about:

- Pray that our church would be a place where we increasingly trust Christ and love and care for each other.
- What can we praise God for?
- What sin do you need to confess?
- What cares or burdens we can help carry?