SERIES ON EPHESIANS, PART 10

TITLE: "PRAYER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD"

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LOCATION: SUNDAY SCHOOL AT SANTA CLARITA BAPTIST CHURCH

I. Introduction

II. Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:3

> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

III. Main Idea – Being given *every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*, Paul encourages us to pray for God to enable us to grasp these blessings more fully each day.

> "What Paul does in Eph. 1, and therefore encourages us to copy, is both to keep praising God that in Christ all spiritual blessings are ours and to keep praying that we may know the fullness of what he has given us."—John Stott

IV. The Text (15-17)

A. What Paul <u>thanked</u> God about for the Ephesians: *faith in [Christ]* and *love* (15-16a)

i. For their *faith in the Lord Jesus*

- "*For this reason*" connects Paul's thankfulness to the spiritual blessings in verses 3-14 that the Ephesians received
- "*Having heard*" tells us that Paul kept up-to-date about Christians in Ephesus and the surrounding area so he could pray for them
- True *faith* includes receiving *Jesus* as *Lord*
- Because *Jesus* is *Lord*, *faith* in Him includes active <u>obedience</u> to Him

ii. For their *love for all the saints*

- Central to obeying Jesus is pursuing *love for all the saints*
- We cannot love just those we connect with, but must *love <u>all</u> the saints*, regardless of how we naturally feel about them

B. What Paul <u>prayed</u> to God about for the Ephesians: *the knowledge of [God]* (16b-17)

i. How Paul addresses God

a. The God of our Lord Jesus Christ

- Emphasizes the God of the spiritual blessings in verses 3-14 (see verse 3)—this is the God who has all the *wisdom and insight* (see verse 8) to convey to us

b. The Father of glory

- Emphasizes God's holy, radiant power, capable of shining in our hearts to give His knowledge to us (2 Corinthians 4:6)

ii. What Paul asks of God

a. A spirit of wisdom and of revelation

- "*a spirit*" refers to a receptive, humble heart attitude (much like in Matthew 5:3)
- "*wisdom*" refers to the ability to know and apply the knowledge of God
- "*revelation*" refers to the provision of the knowledge of God

b. The knowledge of Him

- The refers to knowing God experientially, intimately, and relationally
- This knowledge of God is gained more each day as we obey Him