



PRAYING FOR HOPE

Community Group Study Guide: Ephesians 1:15-23 – Week of April 16, 2023

1. The Church...

In the passage, Paul is writing to the Church. He even clarifies the characteristics of those within the Church, namely those who have faith in Jesus and love for the saints. The faith that we have holds Jesus as our Savior and King. We acknowledge that He has saved us from our sins, and we rightly submit all of ourselves to His authority. Loving the saints is demonstrated by loving everyone who puts their faith in Jesus. This qualification of the Church is the foundation for everything that Paul would continue to write.

2. ... Should Pray...

Paul explains how he continuously prays for the Church, and that he does so with thanksgiving. Likewise, we should be persistent in pray, and our prayers should include abundant thanksgiving. It is important for us to recognize who God is, and be thankful for all that He has done for us.

3. ... For Wisdom and Revelation of God

Paul is praying that the Church would have the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation of God. He is asking that God open the eyes our hearts. The reason that Paul is praying for this is three-fold. First, it is so that we might know the hope that we have been called to. This hope is the powerful promise that God's good sovereignty is working things together for good. Because we know how everything ends, we can take comfort in the most difficult of times. This is the unshakeable hope that we have when we see the Lord for who He is. Second, Paul prays for us to have our heart enlightened that we might see the riches Gods glorious inheritance. The inheritance that Paul is specifically requesting that we see is that which is already revealed to us within the Church. As we interact within the body, we are able to both give and receive from the blessings of our

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Jesus, through His power and authority, has secured our salvation and our inheritance. We should seek to understanding and know Him more.

Heart

We all continue to grow in the depth and knowledge of the Lord. Our hearts can be enlightened, giving us a deeper and richer love for God. Our desire should be to grow into this depth, so that we might enjoy and glorify the Lord

Hands

We are to pray continuously, that we as believers would have a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members Meeting
5/7 @ 1pm

inheritance. Third, Paul wants us to understand and perceive the power of Christ. While our words cannot fully describe the depth of Jesus' power, Paul makes it clear that nothing compares to it. Jesus' overwhelming dominion secures our hope and our inheritance in Him.

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

1. What qualifications for the Church do we see in this passage? Why is it so important to remember that Paul is talking to the saints specifically when reading this passage?
2. Tyler mentioned that we ought to come before the Lord with thanksgiving. Why is this so important to remember? How does a right understanding of thanksgiving to God impact our prayers?
3. What does it mean to have “the eyes of your hearts enlightened?”
4. What is the hope that we are called to? How does our living hope effect and influence our perspectives?
5. What are the riches that we should recognize? Where do we often forget God’s great outpouring of riches in our lives?
6. In what ways do we see and interact with our inheritance that comes from God? How does understanding of this inheritance change the way we view both today and the future?
7. Why is it vital to understand the power of God toward those who believe? How is our understanding of Jesus’ power tied to our hope?