

**Sermon Title:** Grateful Prayer

**Sermon Series:** Ephesians – Who We Are

**Scripture:** Ephesians 1:15-23

**Speaker:** Pastor Ian Bonthron



When we pray for others, what \_\_\_\_\_ we pray for?

Do your prayers reflect that you are in charge or that God is in charge?

What \_\_\_\_\_ we pray for, for others?

### **Ephesians 1:15-16 ESV**

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,

**1. Give \_\_\_\_\_ for other \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **Ephesians 1:16-18a ESV**

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

2. Pray for an \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and deeply \_\_\_\_\_ God.

## **2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV**

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

## **Ephesians 1:18-19 ESV**

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

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ is in our purpose from God
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ are from eternal life
- c. The greatness of God's \_\_\_\_\_ towards us

3. Pray to \_\_\_\_\_ God is in \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Ephesians 1:19-23 ESV**

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.

**Christ's** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Ephesians 1:20 ESV**

20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

**Christ's** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Ephesians 1:20-21 ESV**

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.

## **Acts 19:18-20 ESV**

18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

**Christ's** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ephesians 1:22a ESV**

22 And he put all things under his feet...

**Christ's** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ephesians 1:22b-23 ESV**

...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.

**Pray we can** \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_ **God**

*“It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer; and further we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us, and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing.”*

—George Muller

## GROUP QUESTIONS

What is the funniest thing that you've ever prayed for?

If you've ever had someone pray for you, how has that been encouraging?

Why do you think people (or you) have a hard time praying or praying for others?

Read 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.

What are the types of things we typically pray for? Do they match Paul's list? Why or why not?

In verse 16, Paul states he doesn't "cease to give thanks for you". What are some things we can be thankful to God for about others?

What are some ways a thankful attitude and prayer life changes us?

In verse 17, Paul starts his prayer by asking that God would give them a spirit or attitude of wisdom and knowledge of God. Why do you think Paul started there and not with the physical needs that they might have?

What would change if we started our prayers that way?

How would knowing Jesus is in charge change how we live?

How can we pray for each other this week?