



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"EPHESIANS 1:1:15-23" ON AUGUST 25-28, 2022

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

### DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 1:15-23

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 1:15-23 Paul has heard good reports about the faith and love shown by the church at Ephesus, and he writes to express his thankfulness and to remind them of what God has done, is doing, and will do for His church. The greatest focus of his prayer for them, however, is to describe what Jesus IS DOING, RIGHT NOW, in their lives! Praying for this community that is a struggling minority in a culture driven by self-gratification, he uses rich, descriptive words and many 'absolutes' to encourage and equip these new Christians for walking with Jesus!

PAUL'S PRAYER: In today's passage, Paul begins his prayer for the Ephesians this way: For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.....

- Reviewing verses 1-14, what was Paul referring to when he said in verse 15, "For this reason....."? Why were those 14 verses an important background for what he was about to share about Jesus?
- If you were in the church at Ephesus at that time, what encouragement would you get from the first 15 verses of Paul's letter – what words did he use that were specific to them and showed the intensity of his passion for them, and how welcoming would those words be at a time when they were experiencing exclusion and persecution?

### PAUL'S POWERFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

- Paul uses several phrases in verse 17 that need some 'unwinding': Revelation....Spirit of Wisdom.... Knowledge of Him...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened. Having read this passage and heard the sermon, what is your understanding of these terms, and how can they apply to our spiritual journey, our daily walk with Jesus?
- Verses 18 and 19 include three powerful concepts which weave together the effects of our knowledge of the past, present, and future works of God in our lives. These ideas are:
  - --the HOPE to which He has called you...
  - --the RICHES of His GLORIOUS INHERITANCE in the saints...
  - --the IMMEASURABLE GREATNESS of His POWER toward us who believe...
- Unpack these concepts one by one...what impact does what you have known in the PAST, what you are experiencing in the PRESENT, and what you are looking to for the FUTURE have in applying these concepts to your spiritual walk?

### PAUL'S USE OF ABSOLUTES:

- In verses 21-23, note how many times Paul uses absolutes (all, every, fullness) and references to the authority, power, dominion, and name of Jesus Christ! Can you find words to describe your response to Paul's words?
- How do Paul's teachings in this first chapter of Ephesians shape your view of the God we serve and how you can live out His investment in you as His child?
- Do you hunger for more of Him? What is Jesus doing in your life RIGHT NOW?
- How would you complete this sentence: Because of Jesus' victory and power, I \_\_\_\_\_.



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## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

### RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.