

Lesson 3, EPHESIANS 1:15-23

These verses of Ephesians seem to be a prayer from Paul to His heavenly Father. Paul's heart was tied to the churches he planted throughout the known world. We know Paul spent up to three years in Ephesus, and therefore that church had a special place in his heart. As he was approaching the end of his third missionary journey, he had to bypass Ephesus. He believed that he would never see his beloved church members again.

1. Acts 20:17-38 is the record of Paul's last encounter with the elders of the church at Ephesus before his arrest in Israel. What do you notice about this encounter? What is the warning to the elders in Acts 20:28-31?

2. Reading the Ephesians verses, what is Paul's attitude in verse 16? Compare this to Philippians 4:4-6. How is it possible to be thankful before we receive an answer to our prayers?

3. In these verses, Paul asks the Lord God for two specific things concerning his church in Ephesus. What are they? What does James 1:5 say about wisdom? What does Matthew 6:22-23 say about the eyes? What does Matthew 15:19 say about the heart?

4. What three things does Paul ask to be enlightened to them? What does Titus 1:2,3 and 2:13,14 say about "hope"? Can you think of other verses regarding the hope we have been called to?

5. What does Colossians 1:10-14, 3:23-24, 1 Peter 1:3-5 and Hebrews 9:15 say about the inheritance of the saints?

6. What do these Ephesians verses say about the power available to those who believe? See also Job 38 and Psalm 18:6-19 which are great verses about the power of God.

Application: In what area of your life do you question the power of God to correct it? Read again through these verses in Ephesians and thank God for his answer to prayer even before it is accomplished.

Prayer: God of all power and might, we worship you and give you all glory. It is only by your strength and sovereignty that we can navigate a world that is in darkness. Give us the strength and courage to do your will and walk in your ways all the days of our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.