

Paul's Prayer for Ephesus
Ephesians 1:15-19

Review Ephesians
Faith and Love
Role of the Spirit

- I. **That We Might Know God.** (v. 17)
 - a. God wants us to know Him.
 - b. To know Him and make Him Known.
 - c. The beginning, middle, and end of the Christian life is about knowing God.
 - i. Beginning...Jesus says, "This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent – Jesus Christ" (John 17:3). *Salvation*
 - ii. Middle...Paul writes, "My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection. *Santification*
 - iii. End...John writes, "We know that when He appears, we will be like Him because we will see Him as He his. *Glorification*
 - d. *Epignosis* – "knowledge"...not just facts... "Fulness of knowledge".
 - i. Deeper understanding.
 - ii. To experience God.
 - iii. To walk intimately (husband and wife)
 - e. Implications
 - i. You don't have the mental capacity to truly know God – that is why we must pray for the Spirit to give us "wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."
 - ii. Requires a humble spirit that is open to going deeper with God.
 1. Greek culture – work it out, use reason/intellect.
 2. We are products of Greek culture.
 - iii. You must stay in the Word of God so that the Holy Spirit can show you the God of the Word.
 - f. Application – Before you open up your Bible, attend a small group, or participate in worship, pray that God will you the "Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."
 - i. Col. 1:9 "...that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." *Continually filled*. We need this every time!
 - ii. James – 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God – who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly – and it will be given to him."

II. **That We Might Know God's Calling.** (v. 18)

- a. Called by God's grace (Gal. 1:15)
- b. "Church" means the "called out"
- c. We have a "holy calling" on our lives (2 Tim. 1:9)
- d. One day will be called to glory.
- e. Every Christian has been called, is being called, and will be called.
- f. What is the call on your life day?
- g. Paul want's us to know the hope of our call. We are not citizens of earth/United States...we are citizens of heaven.
- h. Are we living our lives with the hope of heaven in mind.

III. **That We Might Know God's Wealth.** (v. 18)

- a. "Inheritance" may have two interpretations – both of import to us today:
 - i. We, the saints, are God's inheritance.
 1. Recognize the value God places on you and I.
 2. We belong to God.
 3. "Glorious" – Just a man's wealth brings fame to his name, so will God get glory from the Church because of what He invested in us.
 - ii. Our inheritance – Co-heirs with Christ
 1. v. 11, 14
 2. Why are we so preoccupied with material wealth here on earth?

IV. **That We Might Know God's Power.** (v. 19)

- a. Three words for power
 - i. *Dunamis* – "power" ... dynamite or dynamo...the ability to accomplish something
 - ii. *Kratos* – "mighty" ...dominating strength.
 - iii. *Energia* – "working" ...electricity moving through power lines
 - iv. *Ischus* – "strength" ...inherent strength of something/someone
- b. Now that we are growing in the knowledge of God, living in the hope of his calling, recognizing the wealth of His inheritance...we need God's power to live out the life he wants us to live.
- c. Eph. 3:16
- d. Phil. 4:13
- e. Example...Eph. 1:20-23
- f. Can't never could...are living a life of power?