

“DOCTRINE THAT DELIGHTS”  
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
“How to Pray for the Saints”

**Introduction:** Ancient cultures generally attributed their success or failure to a local or tribal deity. Sometimes, human rulers would rise to the level of deity in the eyes of people based on their accomplishments. People in Ephesus engaged in idolatry and practiced magic (Acts 19). Our culture is influenced by new age spirituality, witchcraft, idolatry, and people claiming to be gods. Paul declares the truth about real power and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**SECTION I: WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE SAINTS? (Ephesians 1:15).**

- A. Paul refers to believers as saints – sanctified ones- holy ones. Saints are people who have been positionally sanctified by Christ. God is holy and He demands holiness from us (1 Peter 1:15-16). Are you living into your full potential as a holy one?
- B. Paul heard of their faith and love. Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-17)
- C. What have you heard about the saints? Did you hear that you can't become a saint until you die? Do you have faith in Jesus? Do you have love for all the saints? (Galatians 6:10; John 13:35)

**SECTION II: WHAT'S YOUR PRAYER REQUEST (Ephesians 1:16-17)**

- A. What we hear should inform our prayers. Paul discerned how to pray for the saints based on the report he received. Notice Paul prayed for the saints not to the saints.
- B. Paul prayed that God would give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. This is a reference to the Holy Spirit ministry of illumination (Isaiah 11:2; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16).
- C. The goal of discipleship is to help people learn how to depend on God. When revival manifests in your life we can advance God's kingdom together. Don't you want to know God for yourself?
- D. The teaching ministry of Holy Spirit is predicted by Christ (John 16:12-13). The Holy Spirit keeps us from deception (1 John 2:26-27)
- E. Scripture is comprehensive not exhaustive. As you gain a working knowledge of Scripture you will be motivated to seek God's face in worship and prayer.

**SECTION III: THREE BENEFITS EVERY SAINT NEEDS TO KNOW (Ephesians 1:18-19).**

- A. Paul wanted them to learn 3 specific things about God. **First** – the hope of His calling (Colossians 1:5; Galatians 5:5; Titus 1:1-2; Acts 24:15; 1 John 3:3). **Second** – the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Romans 8:28-30; Romans 9:22-24; Revelation 19:6-8; Luke 10:1-2). **Third** – Surpassing extreme greatness of the extent of God's supernatural power towards you!

#### **SECTION IV: FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT GOD'S POWER (Ephesians 1:20-23).**

- A. **Truth #1** – God's power raised Christ from the dead. The resurrection of Christ proved He is the Son of God with power (Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20). Lord Jesus physically rose from the dead (Acts 10:40-41)
- B. **Truth #2** – God's power seated Lord Jesus at the right hand of God. Heaven is the most holy place or the holy of holies that exists beyond the veil of separation between a holy God and a sin cursed world. God is Spirit (John 4:24). God exists outside of the boundaries of space and time (John 14:6; Revelation 6:12-17; Revelation:11).
- C. **Truth # 3** - God's power put all things under Christ feet. All the wicked spiritual authorities are under the authority of Christ. Feet represent authority (Isaiah 66:1; Psalm 110:1).
- D. **Truth # 4** – God's power made Christ the head of the church. The church is the body of Christ. Ephesians 1:23 is a clear statement of the divinity of Christ. The Lord Jesus dwells in millions of believers all over the world all at the same time.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZES BELIEVERS INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST. IS THIS TRUE FOR YOU? PLACE YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST AND ALLOW GOD TO GIVE YOU AN EAR TO HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING TO THE CHURCH. HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO LEAD YOU TO EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD. THE SPIRIT OF ERROR WANTS TO LEAD YOU TO EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.**

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February 19, 2023***