

Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

I. SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST. (v. 1-14)

GREETING (v. 1-2)

THE ROLE OF THE FATHER IN REDEMPTION (v. 3-6)

THE ROLE OF THE SON IN REDEMPTION (v. 7-12)

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN REDEMPTION (v. 13-14)

II. PAUL'S FIRST PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS. (v. 15-23)

GRATITUDE FOR THEIR TESTIMONY (v. 15-16)

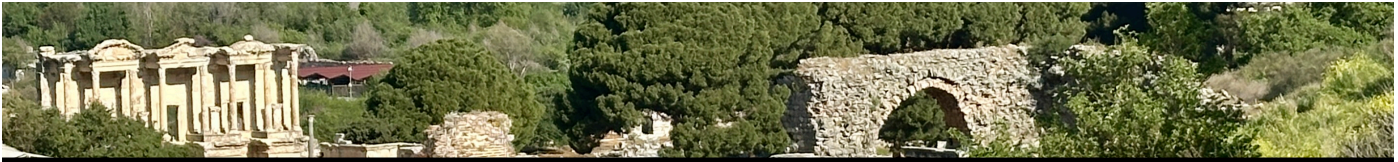
(15) Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus,"

- A. Like verses 3—14, this section of verses 15—23 is another run-on sentence!
- B. Paul is writing this letter from prison in Rome, and it was about 4 years earlier that Paul saw the Ephesians Elders ([Acts 20:17-38](#)), he rehearsed to them what his ministry was like during the 3 years he had been in Ephesus. Paul reminded them that he was "*Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and **faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ***" ([Acts 20:21](#)). No doubt, Paul is encouraged to hear that their *faith* is still *in the Lord Jesus* after being away for the last 4 years.

"and love unto all the saints,"

- A. "*all*" - Gr. *pas* - "*whole; every; all*"
 - 1. They showed love to ALL the saints!
 - a. Not just the lovable saints.
 - b. Not just the saints they liked.



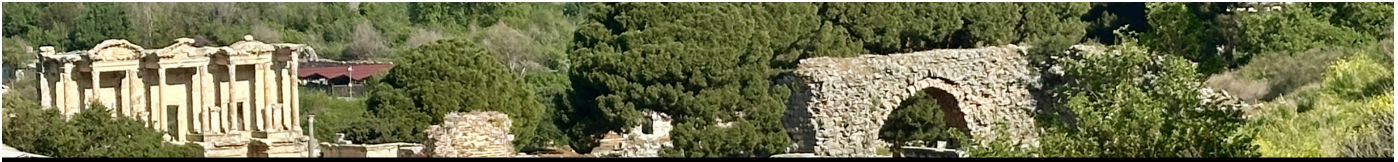
Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

B. **NOTE:** In this verse, Paul marks the TWO EVIDENCES OF A REAL CHRISTIAN:

1. **Faith in the Lord Jesus.**
2. **Love unto all the saints.**

C. **KEY:** Faith in Jesus as Lord will be manifested by love for the saints!

1. Cf. **John 13:34-35** - Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
2. Cf. **1 John 3:14, 16-18** - "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. ... Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."
3. Cf. **1 John 4:7-8, 11, 20-21** - "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. ... Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. ... If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."
4. Cf. **1 John 5:1-3** - "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."



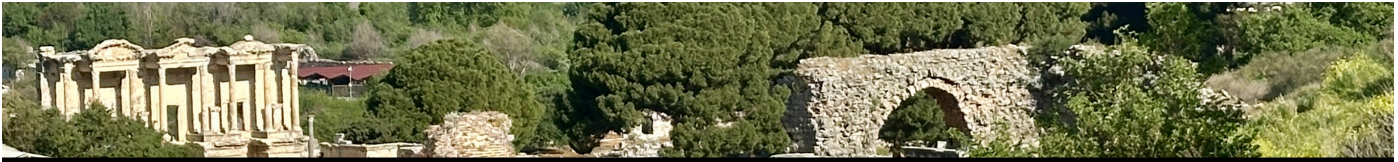
Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

- D. **NOTE:** If I were to write a letter to Calvary Chapel Escondido, I could write the same thing as Paul! I see *a love unto all the saints!* We are so blessed to see this work of the Spirit in our midst.
- E. **KEY:** However, we need to be on guard because the church in Ephesus received a warning from Jesus about 30 years later.
1. Cf. [Revelation 2:1-7](#) - It is interesting to me that when Jesus wrote to the church in Ephesus about 30 years later, HIS CHIEF COMPLAINT WAS THAT THEY HAD LEFT THEIR FIRST LOVE.
 - a. Once noted for their love, how tragic that they should come to a place where they had left that love.
 - b. Jesus was calling them to return to their first love.

(16) Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

"Cease not to give thanks for you,"

- A. There are SOME church that bring GRIEF to the heart of the pastor.
1. The church in Corinth had many problems that stemmed from their carnality, and Paul said that he wrote to them out of anguish and sorrow with many tears.
 2. The churches in Galatia caused grief to the heart of Paul because they were being influenced by a false gospel of salvation by works (i.e. the Law). He had to write to correct them, which I'm sure was very difficult to deal with.
- B. However, there are OTHER churches who bring THANKSGIVING AND JOY to the heart of the pastor!
1. Cf. [Romans 1:8](#) - "*First, **I thank my God** through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world*"
 2. Cf. [Philippians 1:3-4](#) - "***I thank my God upon every remembrance of you**, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,*"

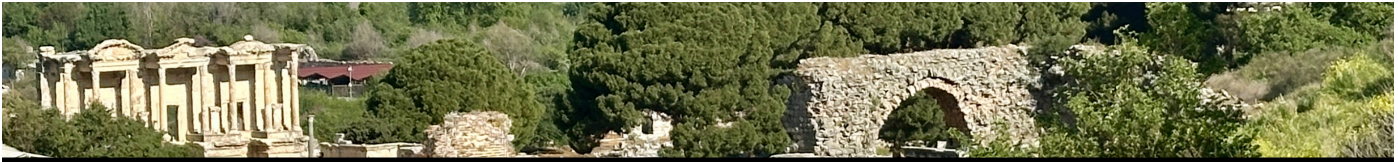


Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

3. Cf. **Colossians 1:3-4** - "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,"
4. Cf. **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3** - "**We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;** Remembering **without ceasing** your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;"
 - a. **NOTE:** Paul also exhorted the church in Thessalonica to "**Pray without ceasing**" (**1 Thess. 5:17**)).
 - 1) **Q** = What does it mean to pray "without ceasing"?... I believe it means to constantly be in an attitude of prayer and communion with God.
 - b. **KEY:** Paul was always in an attitude of prayer, and when he would think of the various churches or believers, he would turn those thoughts into prayers for them.
5. Cf. **2 Thessalonians 1:3** - "We are bound to **thank God always for you**, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"
6. Cf. **2 Timothy 1:3-5** - "**I thank God**, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that **without ceasing** I have remembrance of thee **in my prayers night and day**; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

"making mention of you in my prayers;"

- A. THINK OF THE PRAYER LIST PAUL HAD, AS HE CARRIED ON HIS HEART ALL THE CHURCHES, AND THE LEADERS OF THOSE CONGREGATIONS.
 1. Cf. **2 Corinthians 11:28** - "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, **the care of all the churches.**"



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

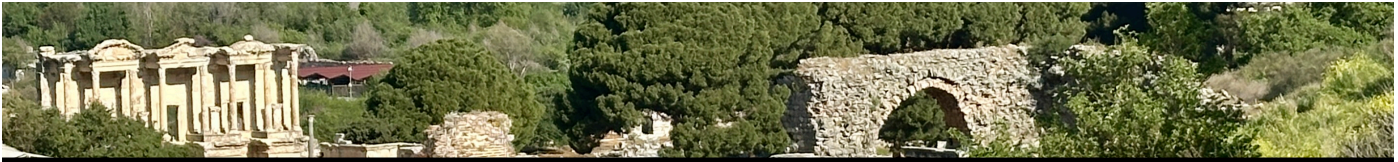
- B. Q = Wouldn't you like to have been on Paul's prayer list?...
1. I'm nowhere near the Apostle Paul, but at least you're on my prayer list!

PAUL'S PRAYER REQUESTS (v. 17-19)

(17) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,"

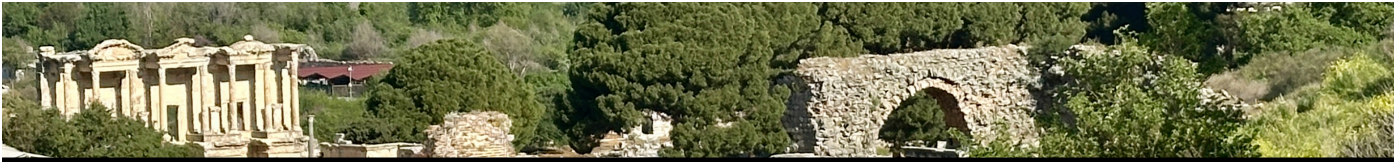
- A. It is important to have the right address when you pray.
1. Q = Who are you praying to?... *The Father of glory!*
- B. "the Father of glory"
1. When we pray, we are approaching the God Who is the source an embodiment in and of Himself of all glory.
 - a. Cf. **Exodus 3:4-5** - "*And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*"
 - b. Cf. **Exodus 33:18-23; 34:1-8** - "*And he said, I beseech thee, **shew me thy glory.** And he said, **I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.** And the LORD*"



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

*said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest. And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount. And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone. **And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.**"*

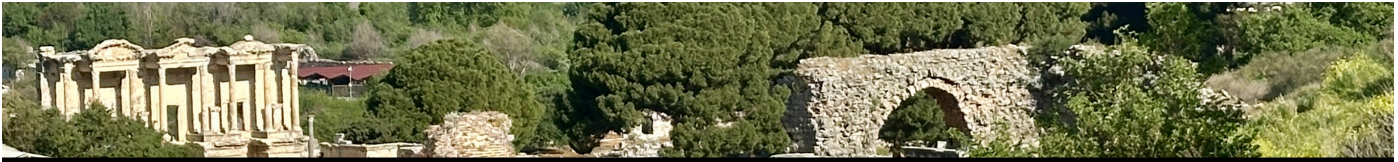
- c. Cf. **Acts 7:2** - When Stephen stood before the Sanhedrin, we read, "And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; **The God of glory** appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,"
 - d. Cf. **2 Corinthians 3:18** - "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass **the glory of the Lord**, are changed into the same image **from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."
2. We have the privilege to come before the Father of glory.
- a. Cf. **Hebrews 4:16** - "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

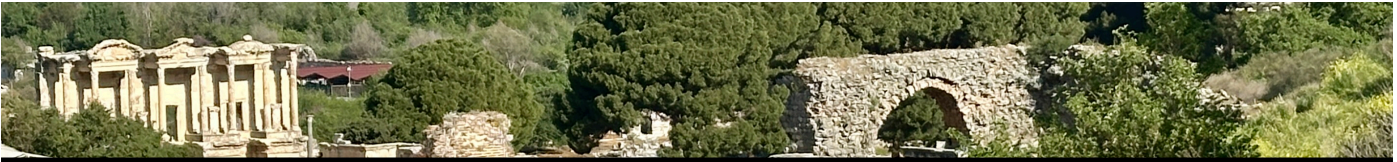
"may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:"

- A. I love how Paul goes to the ROOT ISSUES in his prayer life.
 - 1. So often, we only pray for the SYMPTOMS.
 - a. We pray that someone will get sober.
 - b. We pray that people will have peace.
 - c. We pray that people will experience joy.
 - d. We pray that some will have better circumstances.
 - 2. However, the reality is IF THE ROOT ISSUES ARE RIGHT, THE OTHER THINGS NATURALLY FOLLOW. WE NEED TO PRAY FOR THE ROOT ISSUES.
 - a. If someone has a true revelation of God, they will get sober.
 - b. If someone has a true revelation of God, they will find peace.
 - c. If someone has a true revelation of God, they will experience joy!
 - d. If someone has a true revelation of God, they will have joy in the midst of their circumstances.
 - 3. **NOTE:** Most of our troubles in the Christian life arise from the fact that our ideas are so man-centered instead of God-centered. We need to start with God!
 - 4. **KEY:** As believers, what we really need is a *revelation* of God! That will lead to the glorious results that we are looking for.
- B. **KEY:** THE REAL NEED FOR A CHRISTIAN IS TO KNOW GOD MORE! This is the result of the Holy Spirit giving you wisdom and revelation!
 - 1. You don't need the 12 steps to overcome addiction. You need to know God! If you know God, you won't want the cheap imitation of substances.



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

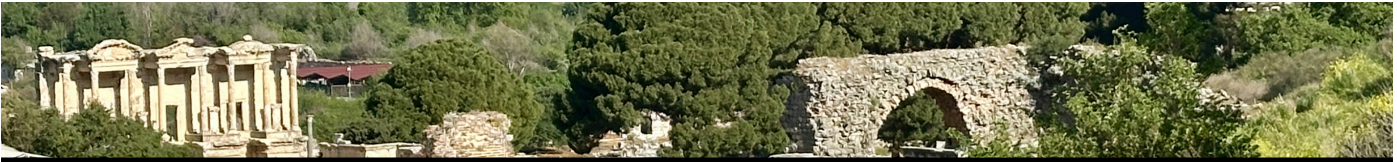
2. You don't need the 7 keys to a happy life. If you know God, you'll have a joyful life.
- C. "spirit of wisdom"
1. Wisdom is the practical outworking of knowledge, and we need God to give us wisdom.
 - a. There are many Christians that learn knowledge of the Scriptures, but we need God to give us wisdom in how to apply that knowledge to our lives.
 - 1) For example, you can know about agape love, but we need God's *wisdom* in how to apply that love practically.
 2. Examples in the Old Testament:
 - a. Cf. **Exodus 28:3** - The Lord told Moses, "*And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with **the spirit of wisdom**, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.*"
 - 1) God gave "the spirit of wisdom" to those doing the practical things in the ministry that the ministry could be accomplished.
 - b. Cf. **Exodus 31:1-11** - "*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And **I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom**, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: **and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee**; The tabernacle of the congregation, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is*



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

thereupon, and all the furniture of the tabernacle, And the table and his furniture, and the pure candlestick with all his furniture, and the altar of incense, And the altar of burnt offering with all his furniture, and the laver and his foot, And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office, And the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the holy place: according to all that I have commanded thee shall they do."

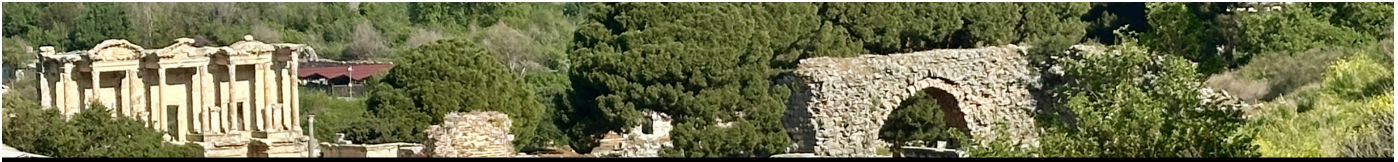
- c. Cf. **Deuteronomy 34:9** - "And Joshua the son of Nun was full of **the spirit of wisdom**; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses."
 - 1) Joshua was given the "spirit of wisdom" that he may lead the congregation.
 - d. Cf. **Isaiah 11:1-2** - The prophet Isaiah, in speaking of the Messiah, said, "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: **And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;**"
 - e. Cf. **James 1:5** - "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."
3. **KEY:** We need the Lord to give us *the spirit of wisdom* so we can practically apply the truths of His Word to our lives, thus this is something we should request from the Lord in prayer!
- a. Cf. **John 14:26** - Jesus said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**"
 - b. Cf. **John 16:13-15** - Jesus also said, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: **for he shall receive**



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

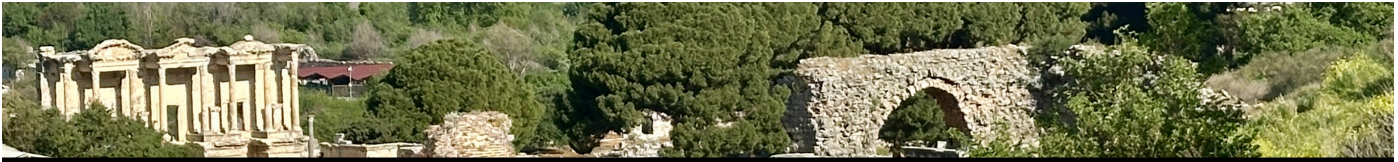
of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

- D. "revelation" - Gr. *apokalypseōs* - "uncovering; unveiling; revealing; manifestation; appearance"
- E. "in the knowledge of him"
1. "knowledge" - Gr. *epignōsei* - "contact-knowledge; first hand, experiential knowledge; true, correct, precise knowledge"
 2. No person can discover God by an intellectual quest.
 - a. Cf. **Job 11:7** - Job's friend Zophar asked, "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?"
 - b. Cf. **1 Corinthians 2:9-16** - "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. **But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.** But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

- c. Cf. **Matthew 11:27** - Jesus said, "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him."
3. **KEY:** This is why Paul prayed for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to be given to you in the knowledge of Him! You do not come to a knowledge of God by intellectual quest, but only by the revelation of the Spirit.
4. **KEY:** God desires for you to KNOW HIM personally.
 - a. Cf. **Isaiah 43:10** - "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: **that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he:** before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me."
 - b. Cf. **Jeremiah 9:23-24** - "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, **that he understandeth and knoweth me,** that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."
 - c. Cf. **Hosea 6:6** - "For **I desired** mercy, and not sacrifice; and **the knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings."
 - d. Cf. **John 17:3** - "And this is life eternal, that they might **know thee** the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."
 - e. Cf. **Philippians 3:7-10** - "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for **the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:** for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **That I may know him,** and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

- f. Cf. **2 Timothy 2:12** - *"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for **I know whom I have believed**, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."*
- g. Cf. **2 Peter 3:18** - *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."*

F. **Q** = We know God by reading the Bible, but how are you going to UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?...

1. Ask God to give you understanding.

- a. Cf. **James 1:5** - *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.

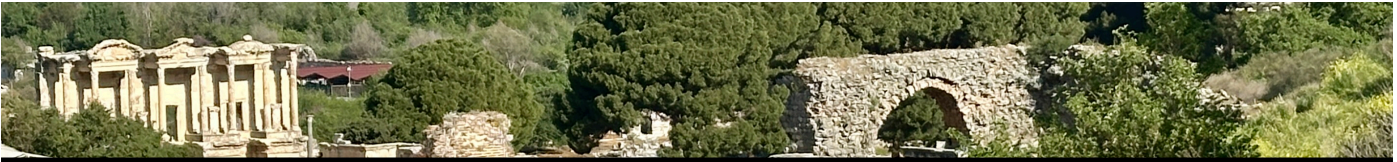
- a. Cf. **John 16:13-14** - *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."*

3. Ask God to "give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him."

G. **Q** = Will you pray these things for me? Will you pray this for each other? Will you pray this for our missionaries?...

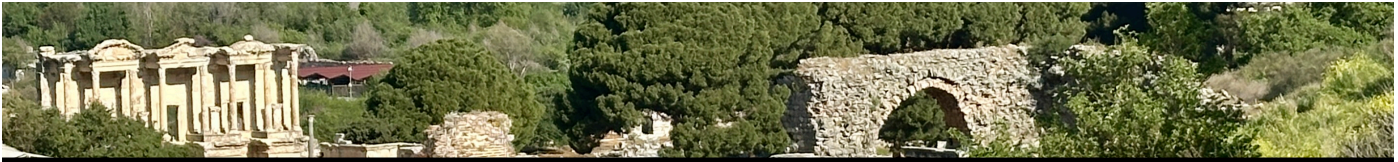
(18) The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;"



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

- A. Paul desired that they would have they would be aware of the spiritual dimension.
1. Cf. **Hebrews 11:27** - *"By faith he [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, **as seeing him who is invisible.**"*
- B. There is an unseen reality in the spiritual realm that we need to realize is there.
1. Cf. **2 Kings 6:15-17** - *We have the case of Elisha when the Syrian army was sent to Dothan to take him captive, where we read, "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, **open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw:** and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."*
- C. The Bible speaks of those who are blind.
1. Cf. **Matthew 13:13-17** - *Jesus said, "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because **they seeing see not;** and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and **seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes,** and hear with their ears, **and should understand with their heart,** and should be converted, and I should heal them. **But blessed are your eyes, for they see:** and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That **many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them;** and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."*
 2. Cf. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** - *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the*



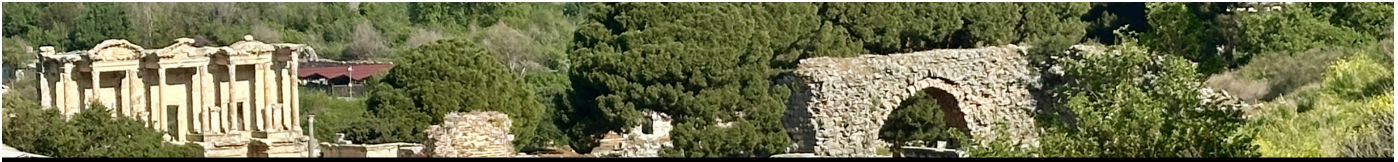
Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

- D. However, the Lord is able to open our eyes.
1. Cf. **Psalm 119:18** - David wrote, *"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."*
 2. Cf. **Acts 26:18** - Paul's ministry was *"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."*
 - a. **NOTE:** Part of Paul's ministry *"to open their eyes"* was fulfilled because he prayed for them that *the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened!*

"that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,"

- A. *"hope" - Gr. "confident expectation"*
- B. *"His calling"*
 1. *"calling" - Gr. "invitation; summons"*
 2. If you knew what was the hope of what God was inviting you to, it would radically change your life.
 - a. Cf. **Romans 8:29-30** - *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, **them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**"*
 - b. Cf. **1 John 3:1-3** - *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for*



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

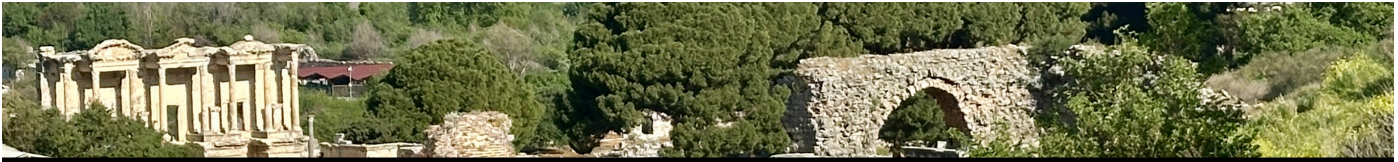
*we shall see him as he is. **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.***"

3. **Q** = What is the hope of His calling/invitation?... The confident expectation of a right standing before God!
 - a. Cf. **Galatians 5:5** - "For we through the Spirit wait for the **hope** of righteousness by faith."
 - b. Cf. **Titus 2:13** - "Looking for that blessed **hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"
 - c. Cf. **Titus 3:7** - "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the **hope** of eternal life."
4. If you only knew the things that God has in store for those who love Him. If you only knew how glorious heaven is!
 - a. Paul was taken by the Spirit into the third heaven and heard things so glorious that he could not describe them (**2 Cor. 12:1-4**). Human language was totally inadequate!!
 - 1) **NOTE**: One of the real problems in the Church today is the loss of a real belief in heaven.
5. **KEY**: God has *called* you to glorious spiritual realities, and we need to pray for each other that we will get a glimpse of those realities and know what is *the hope of His calling*!
 - a. Those in this world have no hope (**Eph. 2:12**), yet we as Christians need to constantly have our perspective aligned to the eternal so that we have a true perspective! Thus, WE NEED TO PRAY THIS FOR EACH OTHER!

"and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,"

A. "His inheritance"

1. Paul talked about our inheritance in Christ (v. 11), but he prayed that they would know *the riches of the glory of HIS inheritance in the saints!*



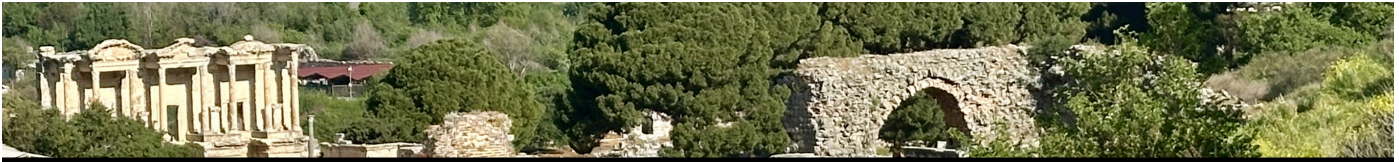
Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

- a. In other words, the prayer is that you might know how much God treasures *YOU!* You are *HIS inheritance!*
 - b. Cf. **Matthew 13:44-46** - Jesus said in one of His parables, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."
2. If you only knew how much God treasures you! We need to pray for each other that we might know that more and more.

(19) And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,"

- A. "exceeding" - Gr. *hyperballon* - where we get English word "hyperbole" - "surpassing; throw beyond"
 1. We get our English word "hyperbole" from this Greek term.
 - a. A hyperbole is an exaggerated statement not meant to be taken literally.
 - 1) **Illust.** - While parking, they'll ask you, "How close am I to the curb?" and you say, "You've got miles!"
 - b. **Illust.** - Back in the day, there was an NFL quarterback, Randall Cunningham, who could "throw beyond" everyone else. That's the idea of this word.
- B. "greatness" - Gr. "magnitude; vastness"
- C. "power" - Gr. *dunamis* - "dynamite; dynamic; might; ability"

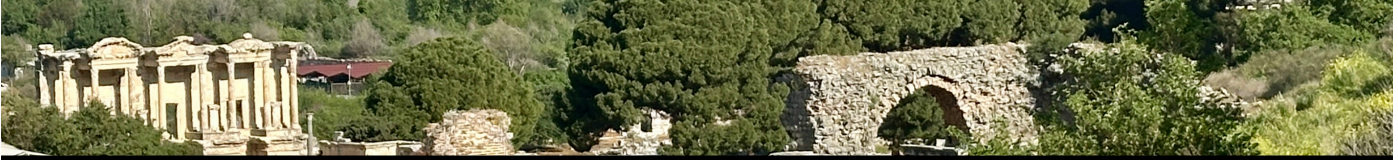


Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

1. I believe that it is important that we know the *power* available to us.
 - a. Many times we cringe before the enemy when we should be standing firm.
 - b. There are many ventures we will not even attempt because of our sense of weakness.
 - c. As a result many times the church is retreating when it should be advancing.

2. There were some men in the Bible who understood the *power* of God.
 - a. Cf. **1 Samuel 14:6** - "*And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: **for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.***"
 - b. Cf. **2 Chronicles 14:11** - "*And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, **LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.***"
 - c. Cf. **Romans 8:31** - "*What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?***"

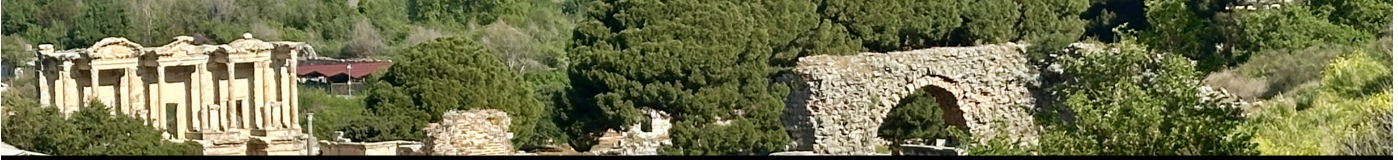
3. If you only knew how much of God's *power* you have available to you as a child of God.
 - a. Cf. **Acts 1:8** - "*But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

"according to the working of his mighty power,"

- A. "working" - Gr. *energeia* - "energy"
- B. "mighty" - Gr. *kratos* - "strength; force; dominion"
- C. "power" - Gr. *ischus* - "absolute strength; ability"
 - 1. From 2 Greek words: *is* ("force") and *exō*, ("have"), thus to "have force" or the idea of "force to overcoming immediate resistance"
- D. **You could translate this verse:** "And what is the surpassing magnitude of His explosive power toward us who believe, according to the energy of His mighty absolute strength,"
- E. **NOTE:** For extra credit, look at the similar things that Paul prayed for the other churches:
 - 1. Cf. **Romans 1:9-12** - "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me."
 - 2. Cf. **1 Corinthians 1:4-7** - "I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
 - 3. Cf. **Ephesians 3:14-19** - "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length,



Ephesians 1:15-19 | "Paul's Prayer For the Ephesians"

and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

4. Cf. **Philippians 1:9-11** - *"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."*
5. Cf. **Colossians 1:9-12** - *"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:"*
6. Cf. **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12** - *"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."*
7. Cf. **2 Timothy 1:3-5** - *"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."*

ELABORATION RELATED TO CHRIST'S HEADSHIP (v. 20-23)