

message summary

Last week we talked about all the blessings we have “In Christ” and I don’t believe there is any greater blessing than being able to connect directly with the Father through Christ. Jesus is our mediator and we can pray directly to God because of His work on the cross. God speaks to us through His word and the way we speak and connect back to God is through prayer. In this passage we see Paul praying to God for the Ephesian church. Paul begins by praising God for the report he has heard of their faith and the love they have for one another. What a beautiful picture of the church. Paul then asks for the Holy Spirit to bless them with wisdom and understanding. He prays for the Holy Spirit to reveal four different things to the church. Let’s read Ephesians 1:15-23 and see what Paul prays for.

observation

- What stands out to you in this passage?

- How does Paul feel about the Ephesian believers and how can you tell?

- What are the four items Paul prays over the believers in Ephesus?

interpretation

- Paul continually gives thanks for the faith and love the believers in Ephesus are showing one another. Why are these two things so important? Have you experienced these two items from others in church?

- What is the significance of the phrases "the Spirit of wisdom, revelation" and "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened" in verse 17?

- What is the significance of Christ being portrayed as the head over all things and what does it do for your faith?

application

- Paul continually gives thanks to God for the Ephesian church. What is it in your life that you can continually thank God for?

- How can we practically tap into the immeasurable power of God in our daily lives, as described in this passage?

- What steps can we take to grow in our understanding of God's calling in our lives?
