

Grow in Jesus – “Grow to Focus upon God”

Ephesian Series: Part 3. Ephesians 1:15-23

Rev. Dr. Scott Arnold FBCLA. 5/29/2022

Memorial Day Sunday.

Expression of grief for the children/teachers/families after the school shootings in Uvalde, Texas. Developing a conscience for social justice and defending the sanctity of all life.

Remembering the faith of our forebearers. Memorial Day. Gratitude for Veterans, and for generations of diverse people who have given sacrificially with their lives, their labors, and their love.

A. Grow to focus with gratitude (v.15-16)

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

B. Grow to focus with prayer (v. 17-18a)

1. Pray to know God personally (wisdom & understanding) (v.17) *17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

2. Pray to grow in faith and awareness (inspiration) (v. 18a) *18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened ...*

C. Grow to focus with hope (v. 18a-23)

1. Focus on God’s eternal covenant and plan. (v.18b) *... in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*

2. Focus on God’s incomparable power shown in Christ. (v.19-21) *19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*

That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

3. Focus on God’s authority and leadership in Christ. (v. 22-23) *22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

A focused time of prayer:

FOCUS: Pray in grief / petition / brokenness (God’s healing and grace, mercy and intercession).

FOCUS: Pray in gratitude (God’s love, people who have shown their faith, hope, and love; community, and God’s provision/protection).

FOCUS: Pray in hope (God’s promises, God’s presence, God’s power).

(We will have a focused time of prayer using this format. Use this format each day as you read the Bible, pray and meditate and you will “GROW” in faith).