

Sermon Supplement

Ephesians 1:15-23 – *A Church with Growth and Power*

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Paul gives thanks for believers who take part in the blessings of redemption and prays that God would give them a greater understanding of these blessings and God's power. God has demonstrated His power in raising Christ from the dead and placing him as the ruler over all things for the sake of the church.
2. **Melodic Line of the Letter:** The two become one for His glory. God the Father, through God the Son, by the power and presence of God the Spirit, is making a multi-ethnic people for the purpose of His glory, based in his eternal plan, in this final age.

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. Faithfulness – faith in the glorious gospel and love for ALL the saints.
2. Growth – The work of the Spirit + the word of God + Our hunger to go deeper.
3. Church – A defined group of people who have covenanted together to follow Jesus, to do life together, and to do mission together, pastored by a group of godly elders who preach the Bible, lead in the sacraments, and who shepherd under Jesus – connected by our one faith, one Lord, one baptism, and the only gospel to other local bodies throughout time and space.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE

1. Naming Grace – Because (v. 15)
 - a. Paul's relationship with this church
 - b. What does 'faithfulness' mean?
2. Thankful Praying for More Grace (vv. 16-23)
 - a. Knowledge that grows (vv. 17-18)
 - i. Paul prays for the conspiracy of the Trinity to be at work.
 - ii. Paul prays for the Spirit to reveal Jesus.
 - iii. Paul is not just thankful for present faith, but he prays for deepening in that faith.
 - b. Hope has two legs – future glory and power (vv. 18-23)
 - i. Paul prays for enlightened hearts in order to know hope (v. 18a)
 - ii. Future glory (v. 18b)
 - iii. Present power (vv. 19-23)
 - a) Resurrection and Ruling power (vv. 19-20)
 - b) Victorious Power (v. 21)
 - c) Body power (vv. 22-23)

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Because of God's work in Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are the children of God who are part of a living body of saved saints, Spirit-filled children of God, who are indelibly connected by Jesus and the profound glory of free grace – by means of this local family of Christians.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

1. What captured the eyes of your heart in this passage? What area of your life is that speaking to most?
2. How are your desires stirred toward the hope to which he has called you? Can you identify any desires currently that are steering you away from this hope?
3. Is there anything else the Spirit has revealed to you to share in order to be known by one another? Share with your group.

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

1. Ask that God would take this drama and put it in your hearts.
2. Confess the fears you've allowed to dominate your heart and mind.
3. Ask God to replace those fears with this grand narrative of God's grace and hope we have in Christ and the power of the Spirit.
4. Ask God to help you love Jesus with a double portion of the Spirit, to believe the Bible is the Word of God, to know grace, and to really believe that the local church is your family of faith.