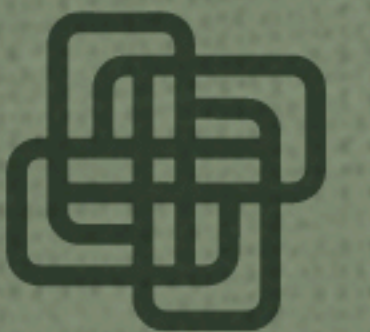




Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN *CHRIST*



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN **CHRIST**

What is Prayer?

“A solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or an object of worship” -New Oxford American Dictionary

“An address (such as a petition) to God or a god in word or thought; an earnest request or wish.” -Merriam Webster Dictionary



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN **CHRIST**

What is Prayer?

“Prayer is simply you—a child of the good Father—making conversation with him a rhythm of your life.”

-Paul Miller, *A Praying Life*



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

Thankful People Exchange Competing for Celebrating

What Reason? Everything in vs. 3-14



15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your

love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering

↑ *love = agape (gk): a thoughtful, volitional, purposeful love that wills to love even the unlovely*
you in my prayers,

-The Ephesians vertical realities of the gospel (reconciliation to God) lead them to a horizontal love for others.

This is the bedrock of authentic Christianity: Christians will always exhibit growth in both the vertical & horizontal realities of the gospel: faith in Christ & genuine love for all believers. (Matt. 22:36-40; Jhn. 13:34-35; 1 Jhn. 3:16-18; 1 Jhn. 4:7-8)



Ephesians

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Knowledge of God should result in the fruit of relational intimacy.

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the *Administers true knowledge* *knowledge = epignosis (gk): a real, deep, full knowledge*

↓
Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes

OT equivalent: yada (heb): deep intimacy (Gen. 4:1)

of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he

has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

-This is one of the ways the NT describes saving faith. Jesus in high priestly prayer "And this is eternal life, they they KNOW you the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (Jhn 17:3)

-Possible to have great theology & not truly know the God you study (Jms 2:19)



Ephesians

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“We are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it. The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul...our aim in studying the Godhead must be to know God himself better. Our concern must be to enlarge our acquaintance, not simply with the doctrine of God’s attributes, but with the living God whose attributes they are.”

-JI Packer, Knowing God



Ephesians

THE CHURCH IN CHRIST

The gospel anchors us in immovable confidence of our inheritance to come.

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the

Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes
Heart = center of our physical & spiritual being (intellectual understanding & personal affections)

of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he

Believers are Christ's inheritance!

has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance **in the saints,**

Context: Paul is writing from prison encouraging these bros & sis. (2 Cor. 4:17-18)

-God often changes our circumstance not by changing what we're in but by reorienting our hearts in the midst of it.

-God could have chosen anything to enjoy for eternity—but in grace He chose us.



We can rest assured in Christ.

THREE SECURITIES IN GOD'S POWER FOR BELIEVERS:

19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who

believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in

1 The Resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:51-52; Phil. 3:20-21)

Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in

2. The Dominion of Jesus (Col. 1:15-23; Rev. 1:8)

the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and

dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in

the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head

3. The Headship of Jesus (other metaphors: Bridegroom/bride, Vine/branches, Shepherd/sheep)

over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills

all in all.

-Christ is not desperate for us, but He does desire us.

