

I. Knowledge of God - Eph. 1:15-17

1. For this reason - he begins a prayer to thank God for the Ephesians (**verses 15-16**)
 - A. He especially thanks God for Faith and Love
 - B. In the Lord Jesus
 - C. All God's people
 - Rea D. When people think of you do they:
 - think of your faith and love?
 - offer thanksgiving?
 - E. He has not stopped thanking God for them
 - Rea
 - we all ought be the impetus for others to praise God
 - an example for "all God's people"
 2. We might all ask ourselves, how much of our prayer is "thanksgiving?"
 - he did not evangelize then forget people - this is a part of his "follow up" ministry - note "not stopped"
 3. His prayer is fleshed out a bit better in **verse 17**
 - A. "Keep asking"
 - Rea
 - continual prayer, not just once
 - B. Asks for wisdom and revelation
 - so you might know Him better
 - Rea
 - walking the Christian walk, is getting to know Him better
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. In your daily Christian life you need this "wisdom"
 2. For encouragement, you also need this "revelation" that He is there, and that He cares
 3. Prayer is an add-on to our worship, and an unnecessary part of most of our lives
 - but, no prayer, no power
 - if we prayed, we'd not be confused, because we'd have His wisdom

II. Hope of God - Eph. 1:18-19

1. He prayed their eyes be opened (**verse 18**)
 - A. The eyes of their heart
 - Rea
 - perceiving, or insightful eyes
 - Rea
 - obviously these eyes can be closed
 - B. If your eyes are open, what do you see? - the hope to which He has called you
 - Rea
 - A. What is that - and why is it important?
 - B. Obviously we are called to a "hope"
 - C. The hope (here) is to the inheritance that is ours
2. He prayed (second) that they'd know the riches of that inheritance
 - we are joint heirs with Christ
 - Rea
 - our spiritual inheritance includes who we are and the blessings we've received (but just don't know about) like the ones enumerated in the first verses of Ephesians 1
 - A. And the great power we've received (**verse 18-19**)
 - B. Includes "mighty strength"
 - C. Three different words for power:

- 1) mighty - like the miracles
- 2) power - energy
- 3) strength - physical power
- Rea *like most of us Paul prayed they would have strength for the walk

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Without prayer do you know this power?
2. Discuss why believers often don't pray
3. In the Old Testament Elisha's eyes were opened to behold angels all around
4. "Knowing" some things is extremely encouraging
 - knowing He is present is encouraging - if you really, really know it
5. We need the knowledge (in our head) that gives wisdom to live our lives with conquering victory

III. Power of God - Eph. 1:20-23

- Rea 1. Power is the focus of the last two verses so, verse 20 takes off on that thought
- 2. We see this power
 - A. When Christ was raised from the dead (**verses 20-21**)
 - B. He is seated at the right hand
 - Rea - a position of power
 - in the heavenly realms - authority
 - C. Far above all rule and authority
 - Rea -that is a form of power we often don't think about - those in authority have "power"
 - D. He is above all names
 - Rea -past, present and future
- 3. God put all things under Him (**verses 22-23**)
 - Rea A. Put all things under Him
 - B. Put all things in the church under Him
 - Rea C. All authority is given me therefore, to into all the world - and bear witness
- 4. Defines the Church
 - A. His body
 - B. The church is the fullness of him who fills everything

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. The issue of power is brought up - why?
 - if He has the power, then He has the right to tell others what to do
 - if He is the authority of the church, then we follow His lead
2. To magnify the power, is to magnify what we can gain to live our daily lives
 - we pray and ask for wisdom and strength to live, -these verses show us that He has it to give. Access to that power is made through prayer, which is the way this passage began.
3. Jesus has been exalted by God - in our eyes - since Jesus is our point of contact with God, and our pathway into the forever life, He needs to be our focus