

Legacy Bible Church Sunday School
Book of Ephesians Study Notes #2
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Eph 1:15-23
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Paul's Prayers For Spiritual Enlightenment

Ephesians 1:15-23 (Notes 1.2)

I. Paul's Thankfulness (v15-16)

A. In addition to God's blessedness from the previous context, he expresses thankfulness for them

1. Based on their existing faith in the Lord Jesus
2. Based on their love for all the saints

B. He doesn't cease giving thanks for them while making mention of them in his prayers (16v)

II. Paul's Prayer: He Prays Specifically For Them (v16-18a)

A. That the Father may give them a spirit of wisdom and of revelation of the knowledge of Him (17)

1. Sophia (means wisdom); a spirit wisdom; applying the truths of God in a way in which produce spiritual fruit
2. Literally "unveiling" knowing Christ through contact knowledge; experience; as you experience Christ you get to know Him more and more as you utilize the wisdom given by the Spirit to know Him for real, based on the Word of God (the source of wisdom itself)

B. That the eyes of their heart (kardia; heart, inner being, the center of person's character) may be enlightened (bring to light, to shine) (v. 18)

1. The "kardia" of their being; their heart be bright to the light in wisdom and knowledge of Christ (by the Spirit)
2. Literally: that your heart may be shone light; your essential being would be graced with illumination (Godly-illumination) as you know Christ the Lord
3. This is a spiritual enlightening (Spirit's work)

III. Paul's Reasons For A Spiritual Enlightened Heart (Spiritual Illumination) (v. 18b-19)

A. The first reason is so that they would know what is the hope of His calling

1. What is the expectation of His "summoning" calling you into faith; you will know what God's expectation is as a called saint
2. This is, so that we would know why were called to be His people and partakers of the hope to which He's called us to

B. What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

1. The second reasons for our hearts to be enlightened is so that we would know what are the riches, the wealth of glory His inheritance in the saints (the inheritance that was mentioned in the previous passage; what is both presently ours and futuristic in fullness)
2. The riches of the glory of the inheritance in the saints; that is, knowing the value, the weight of what the wealth is that we have in our sainthood, the values and content to which is ours in the Lord

C. What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (v. 19)

1. The third reasons for our hearts to be enlightened is for us to know the "huperballo megathos"; surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe

2. The excelling, exceeding greatness of God's might power that is shifted, pointed, in favor of those who believe in Him
3. This is for believers only; it is more than enough in our lives each day

IV. Paul's Prayer Is Based on God's Power (v. 19b-23)

A. A Spiritual Enlightened Heart Is According To God's Ultimate power (v. 19-20)

- I. These three request are in accordance to God's "energia", power, influence, of the strength, might of His absolute power, or His absolute force
2. In other words, these things are from the standard of God's own absolute power and influence which was brought about in Christ

a. When He raised Christ from the dead (the resurrection) (v. 20)

b. The ascension, the heavenly procession (v. 20-21)

1. Christ is seated at God's right hand in the heavenly places (where our blessings come from) which is far above: (v. 21)
 - i. all rule* - the beginning of all ruling powers; source and origin of who and what rules
 - ii. all authority* - all that is able to act on own accordingly; that is, who is absolute, full of power
 - iii. all power* - all that is power(ful), dunamis (dynamite); Christ is above even this
 - iv. all dominion* - lordship, leadership; ruling authorities everywhere, no matter where they exists
 - v. all every name* (both presently and futuristically) - one's name, tied to authority; reputation
3. All things are under the subjection of Christ (v. 22)
 1. That is, all things are under His feet; His Sovereign an absolute rule; under God's arrangement
 - i. All things are in subject to Christ*; nothing happens unless Christ wills it to be; this is Sovereign Rule and authority
 2. He is the head over all things to the church; all things in it are under His power and rule and authority) (v.22)
 - i. The church is His body* (v. 23)
 - ii. The church embodies the fullness of Him who fills all in all*; God's role in this is through the church

V. Application/Conclusion

A. Our faith in Christ and our love for each other is essential to a healthy reputation about Christ and the church

B. Do not cease giving thanks for other and praying for one another.

C. Pray always for wisdom and ongoing knowledge of Christ; we are never too spiritually old to learn about Christ.

D. Pray for ongoing spiritual illumination for the church and for each other; remember that this is a spiritual growing process and not a mystical felt one,

E. Remember that Christ is Sovereign and is over the entire church and creation itself; we can trust Him to guide us in our needs and in our growth as He is the head of our church and the universal church of Christ.

F. Christ is above all things and no one anywhere is more powerful or more sovereign than He; is above all things and names now and all who come and go, now and forever!!

G. Remember that we are a body of believers, not an organization of people; a body requires parts, organs, and blood; if we embody the fullness of Christ (as a church) then we need to remember that just like our physical bodies we need rest, food, and fellowship; thus, let us each be a healthy part of the body of Christ so that we can grow strong, full of God's glory, and a light to this dark world!