

Next Week's Prayers



"...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Jas. 5:16

▶ Prayer Exercise

When is the last time you meditated on God's eternal scheme of redemption? Take a sheet of paper, and on one side, summarize all that you know about God's plan and how he brought it about.

Make a list of all that Jesus Christ is to you. What position(s) does he hold in God's creation, in your life, in the church? What do these things mean to you?

Pray for deeper knowledge and appreciation of salvation.



DEVELOPING STUDENTS
OF THE BIBLE

Sunday Morning Bible Class



▶ 40 Great Prayers of the Bible

Farmerville
Church of Christ

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesian Church
Eph. 1:15-23 & 3:14-21

Prayer Study # 39

Study Series by Bill Denton, D.Min.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

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Paul's Prayer for the Ephesian Church

Eph. 1:15-23 & 3:14-21

Paul began the letter to the Ephesian church with one of the most important, yet concise, statements of God's eternal purpose and work. God's plan to redeem mankind through Jesus Christ began before the foundation of the world. Paul viewed the entire history of humankind as designed to achieve the most glorious of God's acts — the redemption of man from sin.

Paul brought the grand scheme of God's redemption into a practical view by declaring that the Ephesians, having heard the gospel, believed and were sealed in the Holy Spirit, guaranteed their salvation. His prayer reflects on his hope that they understand God's work.

What Can We Learn?

1. This prayer seems to be motivated by the great faith of the church and the love they held for their brethren.
2. Paul was primarily concerned that the Ephesians realize, not just a knowledge of God, but a deep, thorough, intense knowledge of Him.
3. He wanted the eyes of their heart (a most descriptive phrase) to be opened so that two things especially would be recognized:
 - ◆ The hope of His calling
 - ◆ The riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints
4. Paul also wanted them to know the surpassing power exercised toward them, seen in God's raising Jesus from death and seating him at His right hand.
5. Paul makes a significant statement regarding the position of Jesus as head over all things to the church.
6. In Ch. 3, that power was to produce a strength in the inner man.

Questions to Ponder

1. Why would Paul pray for people who already had a strong faith and displayed great love toward fellow Christians? Why would they need to know God any deeper than they did?
2. Read Rev. 2:1-7. What light might this passage shine on the reason for Paul's prayer?
3. Possibly foreseeing the danger that John identified in the passage in Revelation, what was the possible fear that Paul harbored on behalf of this church?
4. How do Eph 1:18-19 relate to the first 14 verses of the chapter?
5. How many significant facts, all having their foundation in God's work accomplished through Jesus Christ, can you list?
6. In 3:16-17, what is the purpose of being strengthened in the inner man?
7. Why do you think "knowing the love of Christ" is the final expression of Paul's prayer?

