

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE

CHAPTER 1:15-23

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TITLE:

"THINGS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW"
THE BELIEVERS RICHES IN CHRIST

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

INTRODUCTION

In The Greek New Testament

From verse 3-14 Paul gives one sentence (v.3) from verse 15-23 Paul gives one sentence. There are 169 words in this one sentence

Scripture Reading vv.15-23

"THINGS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW"

The Context is on Prayer.

Prayer is the key that opens the door to understanding the Bible

When a child is born in this world, that child may be born naked and helpless, - but they are born with certain assets/resources

As That Child Grows

He will enter into a deeper understanding of what it is that He has as far as assets or resources to live life

That will only come through "Understanding" God more and more

#1 Paul's Example at Prayer

vv. 15-16

"Therefore"

Sealed By the Holy Spirit

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal:
"The Lord knows those who are His,"

Paul's Purpose for going to prayer for them,
- is that they were a people that displayed the evidence of God's hand

WARNING

When we first backslide, we backslide at prayer, then we grow cold toward the Lord, then at Bible reading... Then in conduct

Psalm 77:13

Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God?

The Christian Life is Lived on Two Planes At All Times;

#1 Our relationship - "Godward" Displayed by **Faith**

#2 Our Relationship - "Manward" Displayed by **Love**

"Our Degree of Love For Those Around us,
Will Reveal our Level of Our Faith in God"

Love & Faith & Love & Faith & Love

Saint Augustine said;

“Love God and live as you please”

Faith in God is seen by love for others

Nowhere are we called to be monks

Isolated from the world, removed from the sinners, separated physically

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

John 17:15

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."

a) Paul's Prayer was Never Ending

vv. 16

Unceasing Prayer is Simply Practicing the Prescience of God

It is the continual awareness that God is with you and desires to talk to you

PAUL KNEW WHAT TO PRAY FOR & HOW TO PRAY FOR IT

Jesus Taught Us About Praying...

"Never Give Up"

Luke 18:1

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"

What Paul Prayed For;

@ Phillipi He Prayed for their (Spiritual Perception & Christian Maturity)
@ Collosee He Prayed for their (Spiritual Perception & Christian Maturity)
@ Ephesus He Prayed for their (Spiritual Perception & Christian Maturity)

Colossians 1:9

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

DO WE PRAY? • ARE WE A PRAYING PEOPLE? • ARE WE A PRAYING CHURCH?

There are Four Requests Made by Paul

The (First) Purpose of Paul's Prayer

#2 That We Might Know God Personally vv. 17

a) The Prayer is to "The" God & "The" Father vv. 17a
After Mentioning Prayer..... - Paul Breaks Forth into Prayer !!!

LOVE DOES THAT AND THE DESIRE FOR THEIR GROWTH...

**There is no greater prayer made than a prayer for the
spiritual growth and wellbeing for another...**

I can pray for your job - I can pray for your home - I can pray for your ministry - I can pray for your life.... But nothing covers all of the above than praying for your maturity in Christ **(Spiritual Perception & Christian Maturity)**

o n o n **Get Specific at Prayer** n o n o

b) God Will Answer Biblically Prayer vv. 17

- * **Wisdom** *GRK 4678 sophia (sof-ee'-ah)*
Wisdom (higher or lower, worldly or spiritual):
- * **Revelation** *GRK 602 apokalupsis (ap-ok-al'-oop-sis)*
Appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation,
be revealed, revelation.
- * **Knowledge** *GRK 1922 epignosis (ep-ig'-no-sis)*
Recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment,
acknowledgment

“In the knowledge of Him”

The key to understanding the Bible and its truths is... “The knowledge of Him”

1 Corinthians 2:16
For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.

b) God Alone Gives Understanding vv. 18a

The eyes of your (heart) understanding

2 Timothy 2:7
Consider what I say, and may **the Lord give** you understanding in all things.

c) God Himself is Enlightenment vv. 18b

Mankind is Born Blind

The Heart of the Unsaved Man is Blind

1 Corinthians 2:10

God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Enlightenment comes from the Holy Spirit

John 14:25

"These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:12

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Example: *the enlightening process*

Luke 24:30

Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their..... :44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

(The Miracle of Conversion)

The Eyes of the Heart are opened like never before,
things sound clearer, smell better, taste greater - Spiritually

Seeing

Psalm 119:18

Open my eyes, that I may **see** wondrous things from Your law.

Hearing

Psalm 34:8

Oh, **taste** and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

The Seeing Blind

Matthew 13:13

"Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."

The Rejection of Truth Leads to Blindness

Romans 1:20-21

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, :21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

The (Second) Purpose of Paul's Prayer

#3 That We Might Know God's Calling vv. 18b

o "That We'd Have - Hope!" n

The unwavering fact,
that God is within me

Colossians 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Invisible - because the Bible says so,
feelings or none**

Hope **GRK 1680 elpis (el-pece')**
Expectation or confidence:

Calling **GRK 2821 klesis (klay'-sis)**
The Invitation

(The “Expectation” that comes with the “Invitation”)

The (Third) Purpose of Paul's Prayer

#4 That We Might Know God's Riches vv. 18b

We must grow in our understanding of our riches

Too many Christians have never looked into their
spiritual bank book

**“O' God - Show them What They Already
Have!”**

What you (really) need tonight may be light years away from what you think you need

(What we want & what we need are often 180° apart)

Our Illness is that -

We think we can find the answer in carnal things

- We think we need wealth
- We think we need power
- We think we need position

c) His Inheritance is - “in the Saints” vv. 18

“The Value That God Has Placed Upon Me”

- What could an angel give God? - Nothing
- What could the universe give God - Nothing
- What could the animal world give God - Nothing

That's Why He has Redeemed Us - Not Angels, Not
Animals

If you were to ask God tonight...

“God what Could I give you?..... It would Have to YOU !!!

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed
away; behold, all things have become new.

The (Fourth) Purpose of Paul's Prayer

#5 That We Might Know God's Power vv. 19-23

* **Exceeding** **GRK 5235** *huperballo (hoop-er-bal'-lo);*
To throw beyond the usual mark, - to surpass the others

* **Greatness** **GRK 3174** *megethos (meg'-eth-os);*
Magnitude

* **Power** **GRK 1411** *dunamis (doo'-nam-is)*
Miraculous power. Great ability, Great abundance,
Great strength

* **Working** **GRK 1753** *energeia (en-erg'-i-ah*
("Energy") strong, (effectual) power

* **Mighty** **GRK 2479** *ischus (is-khoos'*
Forcefulness might, power, strength.

* **Power** **GRK 2904** *kratos (krat'-os*
Great vigor or strength.

IT IS HIS POWER - NOT OUR BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS

Zechariah 4:6
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

God's Power should Spawn Prayer within Us

This is The Meaning/Definition of the Church

The Holy Spirit Living in Me and the Power of God working through me...
is the church - all to His Glory !!!

All in All

*Jesus living in you 24 hours a day • In Every Believer around the world
In every Church gathering • Every day of the week*

The Church is.... Jesus Christ alive in every believer

**The Church is the Extension of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ in
the World today**

{Each of these request are in direct alignment with the
perfect will of God}

Meaning - God will answer this prayer

1. You Will Know Him Personally
2. You Will Know His Calling For Your Life
3. You Will Know His Riches of Blessings
4. You Will Know His Power at Work Inside You

One more thing about riches
God looks at our future, and He's blessed by it!!!

"Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

Your name Simon , but for now on you'll be called Peter

God suggested to Gideon that he saw him as a mighty man
Jesus suggested to Peter that he could be a stone