

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

Ephesians 1:15-20

➤ Paul often prays for the saints.

- Colossians 1:9-12
- Philippians 1:9-11

Paul's Prayer For The Colossians

➤ For what did he pray?

Colossians 1:9-14, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard (it), do not cease to pray and make request for you,

1. *that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*
2. *to walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*
3. *strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, unto all patience and longsuffering with joy;*
4. *giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love; in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins."*

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

Ephesians 1:15-20

Verses 3-14

Seven Spiritual Blessings Named:

Ephesians 1:4, "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world"

Ephesians 1:5, "foreordained us unto adoption as sons through Jesus Christ"

Ephesians 1:6, "his grace, which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved"

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

Ephesians 1:15-20

Ephesians 1:7, "Redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses"

Ephesians 1:9, "Making known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in him"

Ephesians 1:11, "in whom also we were made a heritage"

Ephesians 1:13, "in whom ye also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, - in whom, having also believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise"

Paul recognizes the faith and love of the Ephesians. 1:15-16

- Heard of your faith. Colossians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3,8
- Heard of your love. John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9ff; 1 John 4:20

***"Cease not to give thanks for you ..."* Romans 1:8ff**

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That they might know God. (1:17)

- ▶ *Titus 1:16, "They profess that they know God; but by their works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."*
- ▶ Essential to eternal life. John 17:3
- ▶ Failure to know God leads to everlasting destruction! 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
- ▶ This knowledge comes through close personal association with God. cf. 2 Timothy 1:12ff

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Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

This knowledge of God comes by **"a Spirit of wisdom and Revelation" (1:17) cf. Colossians 1:9**

- ▶ Through study of God's word.
 - Psalms 119:105, 130
 - Requires a love of truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:10ff
 - Requires diligence. Ephesians 3:3-4; 4:3-6
 - Requires putting off, putting on. Ephesians 4:20ff

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Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That they may know **"... His calling." (1:18)**

- ▶ Requires that their eyes be open. cf. Acts 26:18; Matthew 13:15f
- ▶ Called by the gospel. 2 Thessalonians 2:14
- ▶ Called into his own kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12
- ▶ Called into God's marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9
- ▶ Called out of kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Christ. Colossians 1:13-14

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Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That they may know **"What is the HOPE of His calling." (1:18)**

- ▶ The word **"hope"** means "desire with expectation"
- ▶ What is the expectant desire of this **"calling"** by God?
- ▶ Place of HOPE. Romans 8:24-25; Philippians 3:14, 20-21; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

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Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That they may know **"What is the HOPE of His calling." (1:18)**

- ▶ Paul has already revealed some of this hope in verses 4-5
 - To be holy and without blemish
 - To be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ
- ▶ Paul will reveal more about it later in the epistle - cf. Ephesians 2:19-22.

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Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That they may know the **"RICHES of the glory of His inheritance." (1:18)**

- ▶ God is glorified in His heritage ... Ephesians 1:11
- ▶ Saints are counted by God as great riches or wealth. cf. 1 Peter 2:9-10
- ▶ Inheritance. **"fellow heirs."** Ephesians 2:12-13

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Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That they may know the **"exceeding greatness of His POWER."** (1:19-20; 3:7, 20)

- ▶ Paul gives an example in Ephesians 2:1-6
 - We who were **"dead in trespasses" (2:1-3)** were **"made alive" (4-5)** and **"raised up" (6)**
- ▶ Those in Christ were spiritually dead, have been made spiritually alive. cf. Colossians 2:12-13
- ▶ Just as God raised Jesus from the dead.

God's power seen in both.

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Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That THEY might know:

- ▶ God.
- ▶ The hope of God's calling.
- ▶ The riches of God's inheritance.
- ▶ The power of God.

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Paul's Prayer For US

That WE might know:

- ▶ God.
- ▶ The hope of God's calling.
- ▶ The riches of God's inheritance.
- ▶ The power of God.

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God's Desire For Us

- ▶ That we increase in our understanding, appreciation, and application of these blessings.

- ▶ NOTE: Before growth can occur, there must be life!

◦ Have you been **"made alive together with Christ?"** *Ephesians 2:5-6; Colossians 2:12-13*

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Have you been "made alive together with Christ?" *Ephesians 2:5-6; Colossians 2:12-13*

Hear the Word. Romans 10:17

Believe the Gospel. Mark 16:16

Repent. Acts 2:38

Confess faith. Acts 8:37

Be Baptized. Acts 2:38

Live Faithfully. Revelation 2:10

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