

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

Ephesians 1:15-20

Richly Blessed In Christ

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"

Richly Blessed In Christ

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

Ephesians 1:9 "Making known unto us the mystery of his will"

Ephesians 1:11 "we were made a heritage"

Ephesians 1:13 "ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise"

➤ Paul often prays for the saints.

■ Philippians 1:9-11

■ Colossians 1:9-12

➤ 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

➤ Impressed with Paul's love for his brethren.

■ 1 Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:15; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:3; Philemon 4

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

That they might know God. (1:17)

- More important than human wisdom, glory or might. cf. Jeremiah 9:23-24
- 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 1:12-14

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians

This knowledge of God comes by "a Spirit of wisdom and Revelation" (1:17)

- Through study of God's word.
Psalms 119:105, 130
 - Requires a love of truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
 - Requires diligence. Ephesians 3:3-4; 4:3-6
 - Requires putting off, putting on. Ephesians 4:20ff

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 2:12
- 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

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?

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.

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

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 we who were spiritually dead have been made spiritually alive. cf. Colossians 2:12-13
- Just as God raised Jesus from the dead. cf. Matthew 9:2-8 **Divine power required in both.**

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.

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.

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*

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

- 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. Rev. 2:10