

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE FOR THE CHURCH
(Ephesians 1:15-23) pt 3

I. Paul's Prayer for the Saints at Ephesus (1:15-23)

A. Paul's Prayer Of Thanksgiving (1:15-16)

*Why did Paul pray here? (1:15) (2 reasons could be noted):

- 1) Paul prayed because of the divine expenditure of God's amazing _____ on every believer in Christ (1:3-14)
- 2) Paul's prayer for them was triggered by the _____ of God's grace in the hearts of these believers which was being evidenced by their vertical _____ toward God & horizontal _____ toward one another in the Body
 - So here in Ephesians 1:15-21 we see this section begins with the word, "*therefore*"... Here, Paul's thanksgiving for them looks _____ at their _____ in Christ (vs 4-14), while his prayer for them looks _____ for their spiritual _____ of God's blessings in Christ (v17-21)!

B. The Contents of Paul's Prayer (1:17-19a)

1. **Generally...** Paul prays (1:17) ... *for a spirit of _____ & _____ concerning the _____ of God.*

- This knowledge is not just a _____ knowledge, but a deep, personal, _____ knowledge of God. The kind of knowledge that comes from personal time spent together in _____ with God in His _____.
- This is clearly seen in the _____ tenses of _____:
 - To know God personally is salvation _____! (John 17:3)
 - To know God increasingly requires the _____ process (Phil. 3:10)
 - To know God perfectly will take standing before Him one day in _____ (1 Cor. 13:9-12)

2. **Specifically** (1:18-19a) **he prays...** "*that the eyes of your understanding be _____*"

- What are the _____ that Paul prayed for? (3 things pertaining to the Church)
 - a. What is the _____ of His _____?
 - It helps to know that God has called us to _____, and to _____ to Christ!
 - b. What are the _____ of His glory of His _____ in the _____?
 - It helps to know this is not _____ inheritance _____ Christ,... but _____ inheritance in _____!

- What should this indicate to us?

c. What is the exceeding greatness of His _____ to us who believe?

- It is good to know we have exceeding great power _____ to us! This is of course _____ available in _____ salvation to live the victorious _____ life!

C. The Mighty Power of Paul's Prayer Illustrated (1:19b-23)

- How does Paul show us what kind of power he means here? (1:20) ...

... it is the very power "*He _____ In Christ when He _____ Him from the dead and then _____ Him to his right hand in glory*"!

- This "power" is the key asset given for _____, but it is _____ given to those who _____ the gospel!
- God has provided the believer in Christ the power to...
 - a) _____ the lost & to _____ the Great Commission (Acts 1:8)
 - b) Endure _____, _____, & _____ in the Christian life (2 Cor. 4:7-10 & 14)
 - c) Fulfill God's _____ in life (Phil. 2:13)
 - d) Serve the Lord _____ (Col. 1:29)
 - e) Be _____ into the very _____ of Christ (2 Cor 3:17-18)
- What should this *reveal* to us?
- How *high* has Christ been exalted? (1:21) – "... _____ others"
- What are the "riches" accomplish for the believer that Paul prayed for here?
 - 1) The knowledge of our rich blessed _____ that we need to know & understand if we are to live in light of it (1:3-14)
 - 2) A high calling to _____ which includes growing in grace & knowledge of the Son of God now, that will one day bring us into perfect _____ with Christ for eternity! What a "Hope" this is!
 - 3) We can enjoy the fact that believers who make up the Church are Christ's _____ that He is looking forward to spending _____.
 - 4) We can know we have the ability to tap into all this by means of the _____ & to be able to live this New Life in Christ the same way we got saved... by simple _____!