

PRAYING FOR KNOWLEDGE

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

9-8-24

I. CONTEXT

A. Ephesus was a church Paul loved dearly

B. Paul ties his prayer to the previous section

~“For this reason” – All that God has done in v. 3-14

C. Occasion of the prayer is joy and praise

II. PAUL PRAISES THEIR FAITH

Ephesians 1:15-16 – “For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...”

A. They had the basic components of a spiritual walk – “Faith and love”

~ Warren Wiersbe - “A Christian is this...one who has faith in Jesus and love for the saints.”

B. Paul’s love makes him desire more for the church

III. PAUL PRAYS FOR KNOWLEDGE

Ephesians 1:17-19 – “...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might...”

A. Relational Knowledge of God is essential to our growth as Christians

~ Warren Wiersbe - “To know God personally is salvation, to know God increasingly is sanctification, to know Him perfectly is glorification.”

B. Knowledge comes from the Holy Spirit

~ Illumination – the enlightening work of the Holy spirit to help believers ascertain God’s truth!

C. Paul asks for knowledge in three areas

1. Knowledge of their hope

- Their hope is expectant

2. Knowledge of God’s inheritance

- We are God’s inheritance

- He gives us value in our identity

3. Knowledge of God’s power

- God’s power was fully on display in the resurrection

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. What in this passage taught you the most about prayer?
3. Is it more difficult for you to pray in good times or hard times? Why?
4. What are typical prayer requests that we pray at church? How are Paul's prayer requests for the Ephesians different from our typical prayer meetings?
5. How does understanding the Holy Spirit's role in "enlightening" our hearts encourage you as you engage in Bible Study?
6. What role should prayer play in our study of God's Word? Why doesn't prayer play a role in our study of God's Word?
7. How does understanding more about the hope we have in Christ change the way we live? How has it changed the way that you live?
8. Paul prays for the Christians to understand more of their identity in Christ. Why is this an important prayer for our church today? What are some ways we can help people grow in the knowledge of their true identity in Christ?
9. Why was it important for Paul to pray that the church would see the power of the resurrection? How would hearing this have impacted the church at Ephesus and here at MCC?

PRAY OVER OUR CHURCH

- Take some time as a group and pray Paul's prayer for Ephesus over MCC
 - Praise God for the work He is doing at MCC in people's lives
 - Pray that we would grow as a church in the knowledge of God
 - Pray that we would fully grasp the hope He gives
 - Pray that we would understand the worth of our identity in Him
 - Pray that we would see the power of God to save on display in our church!