

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR WISDOM

Ephesians 1:15-23 (web) For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which you have toward all the saints, 16: don't cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, 17: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; 18: having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19: and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to that working of the strength of His might 20: which He worked in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and made Him to sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21: far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come. 22: He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things for the assembly, 23: which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey - (Acts 18-21)

In the spring of AD 52, Paul's journey brought him to Ephesus where he stayed for 2 years and 3 months.

Paul wrote the letter of Ephesians while he was in prison in Rome.

Paul appointed Timothy, to lead the church. Later, John took over from Timothy as leader for many years until he was forced into exile on Patmos

IMPORTANT TO FINISH WELL

They started well but along the journey of life and service they lost their first love which the Lord said He was against.

Revelation 2:4 (amp) But I have this [one charge to make] against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first [you have deserted Me, your first love].

ALWAYS / CONSTANTLY PRAYING

1:15-16 For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which you have toward all the saints, 16: don't cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,

It was *for this cause*, that they have been sealed for eternity with the Holy Spirit of promise.

PAUL'S PRAYER

That God *may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. 1:17b*

They would have *the eyes of your hearts enlightened that you may know what, (the heart has the ability to see - not the head first, but the heart) 1:18a*

They would see *the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. 1:18b*

They would know *what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe 1:19a*

God's power is directed towards us, to enable us, to accomplish and to win Spiritual victories.

They would realise *according to that working of the strength of His might 20: which He worked in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and made Him to sit at His right hand in the heavenly places. 21: far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, (higher, greater, deeper and wider - beyond all other powers) and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come (not transitory but permanent). 1:19b-21*

God's mighty power *placed all things in subjection to Christ. (under Christ's absolute authority and control) making Him head of the church (Christ is the head that directs, empowers and inspires the members the Body - the church) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. 1:22-23*

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

For us also to pray often for our church, our brethren, the new converts etc.

Paul wanted the Ephesians to know, see and embrace the great truth of redemption.

This presents the challenge as to what is the content of our prayers for others, and for us to pray the same kind of prayers.

Paul desired that the Ephesians would clearly know **four key truths that relates to God's calling in their lives.**

1. That God might give to us a *spirit of wisdom and revelation* in the knowledge of Him.
2. The *eyes of your hearts would be enlightened* so we are aware of the hope of His calling in our lives.
3. For us to be fully aware and conscious of the *exceeding greatness of god's power* which is directed towards us.
4. That we might know what are the *riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints*. This is about us being what God will inherit. God says that we are his glorious inheritance.

Paul's prayer opens a new perspective on our hope and His inheritance in the saints.

God thinks of us as His glorious inheritance.

God places such a high value on sinners rescued from hell and who are still struggling but now sees them as in Christ is amazing!

We already know that we belong to God. **BUT**, when we finally stand in God's presence, we will be fully His people.

God will then claim us as complete and will fully delight in us.

Have you ever thought of yourself as God's glorious inheritance? **The truth is that you are!**

Ephesians 1:11-12 (hb) In Him we were also made His inheritance, predestined according to the purpose of the One who works out everything in agreement with the decision of His will, 12: so that we who had already put our hope in the Messiah might bring praise to His glory.

Ephesians 1:3 (wuest) In Him, in whom also we were made an inheritance, having been previously marked out according to the purpose of the One who operates all things according to the counsel of His will, with a view to our being to the praise of His glory who had previously placed our hope in the Christ.

Consider how much we mean to God. Reflect on how much God values us. This will change the way we live and serve Him.