

(15) For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

(22) And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Think on these things:

- 1) Paul offers a prayer for the Ephesians for two reasons. What are they (v. 15)?

A) I have heard of your faith in Jesus.

B) And I have heard of your love toward the saints (believers) in Christ.

- 2) Who is the “God of our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 17)?

The Father of Glory, our Heavenly Father.

- 3) This prayer is presented as one LONG sentence running from v. 15 to v. 21, making it challenging to dissect. Let’s see what Paul asks God for to benefit the people of this church by the phrases in these verses:

v. 17b The Spirit of **wisdom**

and of **revelation in the knowledge of Him (Jesus).**

v.18 Having the eyes of their **hearts** opened so that they can know **hope.**

v.18 And the riches of His (i.e., Jesus’) **glorious inheritance** in the saints. (Think of that...**WE believers** are the Father’s gift of inheritance to Jesus!)

v.19 What is “immeasurable”? **the greatness of God the Father’s power** toward us who believe.

v.20 Where was this already shown? **It was shown when the Father raised Him (Jesus) from the dead.**

- 4) How might any of these things (the revelation of Him) help the church?

The Church is tasked with witnessing for Jesus, and its individual members serve as Christ's ambassadors --- so a correct understanding of Jesus is needed!

- 5) Do you desire any of these things personally? If so, which one(s)?

(From any part of today's text) -> Perhaps "wisdom" as in v. 17., or hope (v. 18), or Christ's power (v. 19)

- 6) After the Father raised Jesus from the dead --- and Jesus remained with His disciples 40 days --- where did Jesus go (v. 20)? What is the significance of this?

Jesus went up to heaven and sat down at the right hand of His Father. This is the seat of entrusted power and authority over ALL creation.

- 7) Who "answers" to Jesus? For how long (vs. 21-22)?

Everyone answers to Jesus, including all earthly and heavenly rulers and authorities both now and in the age to come.

- 8) What is the relationship of God's "church" to Jesus (v. 23)? By the way, this church is comprised of "we" who believe! (Believers are NOT the covenant people; that special relationship belongs to the Jews.)

The Church (comprised of all Christian believers) is Jesus' "body" in the world, hearing, seeing and serving!

People and situations I want to pray for this week: