

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Eph 1:15-16 - 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,

“For this reason”, Paul continues to write in light of the wealth of spiritual blessings the saints have received in Christ. He lets his readers know that he continually prays and gives thanks for them, because he has heard of their faith and their resulting love for one another.

1. Faith in Christ is ultimately manifested in the outworking of daily life and conduct. In this particular passage, faith is shown in love and concern for others. Is it then necessary that faith manifest itself in works? What verses come to mind to support your answer?

Eph 1:17-19 - [Paul's prayer is] 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, 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

2. On behalf of the believers, Paul prays, asking God, the father of glory, for the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him. What do you think this means (c.f. Col 1:9-10; 1 Cor 2:12-14)?

3. As a result of the Spirit's work, the eyes of the believer's heart are now enlightened. What kind of picture does this paint in your mind (c.f. Luke 24:13-16, 28-31; Acts 26:15-18)?

4. Paul continues, praying that believers will understand the following blessings that are now theirs in Christ.

- a. What is the future hope that he has called us to (c.f. 1 John 3:2-3; Eph 2:12)?

- b. What are the riches of God's glorious inheritance in the saints (c.f. Eph 1:11, 14 NET)?

- c. What is God's immeasurable power for us (c.f. Phil 3:20-21; 1 Peter 4:10-11)?

5. These are Paul's priorities for the believers, for you. How can you incorporate one or more of them into your prayer life this week?

Eph 1:19-20— 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,

6. Reread this verse, what is significant about God's power (hint: twofold in nature)? See Col 2:11-12, what thoughts about this come to mind?

The power with which God works in the lives of believers, is the same might by which he raised Christ. How can God not be for us as he works all things for our good (c.f. Rom 8:28-31)?

Eph 1:20-21—[referring to God's power] 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.

- By God's power, Christ was raised and is now sat at the right hand of God, indicating his earthly role was complete
- Sitting at the right hand implies that Christ shares the Father's throne
- Christ is enthroned, he now possesses the full authority of the Father
- His position is superior to every imaginable power; angels, demons, and even death is now subject to the risen and exalted Lord
- His rule will have no end
- This mighty power is available and at work in the life of believers today

Eph 1:22-23 - 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.

7. Consider the below, what does it mean when the verse says:

- a. Put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church (c.f. 1 Cor 15:27)
- b. ... the church, which is his body (c.f. Col 1:18; Eph 4:15-16)
- c. The fullness of him who fills all in all (c.f. Col 2:9-10)

By his resurrection and ascension, Christ is exalted to be Lord of all, and he is head of all things for the church. The church is his body, comprised of God's people, his glorious inheritance, that is intended to express him in the world, filling creation with Christ's purposes. More than that, the church is intended to be a full expression of him by being filled by him! When we recall that all of this power is for us, empowering us, transforming us into Christlikeness, it is no wonder that Paul prays that our eyes might be opened to see, understand and believe it.