

Week 2: Ephesians 1:15-23

15 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, 17 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 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 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, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Study Questions

1. In this prayer, Paul speaks of God as “the Father of glory” (v. 17). How do those two terms (‘Father’ and ‘glory’) shape our understanding of the God whom we pray?
2. Paul has heard about their “faith in Jesus” and “their love for all the saints.” How are these two connected in the Christian faith and life?
3. In this section, what are some things that Paul prayed that the Ephesians would see?
4. How does God’s Spirit enable us to know God?
5. D.A. Carson asked and answered, “What is the greatest need in the church today? It is a deeper knowledge of God.... We need to know God better.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
6. How does ‘biblical hope’ differ from the ways in which we normally use the term ‘hope’?
7. What is the example that Paul uses to illustrate God’s power (vv. 19-20)? Why do you think that he chose that over other possible examples?
8. What practical difference would it make if we understood our hope, God’s inheritance, and God’s power better?
9. Does it surprise you that God places such value on the church today? What is unique about the church that cannot be found in any other institution in the world?

Action Step: Is there a struggle in your life for which you need to rely upon God’s power? Temptation? Attitude? A thorny relationship? Is there some difficult thing you need to do—saying “no,” saying “yes,” or saying “sorry”? Review Paul’s prayer, ask for God’s guidance, and act in God’s power.

