

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Ephesians 1:15-23

Lesson 2

What do you pray when you pray for others? In this lesson we will study Paul's prayer for believers in Ephesus. He thanks God for them and makes several requests. They are a good reminder to us of what to pray for others so that they are truly blessed and full of God's joy. As you study, ask the Lord to show you how He would have you pray for other believers.

DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Ephesians 1:15-23 is one section. Scan these nine verses and list below the subject(s) covered.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

Now record a title for the first chapter of Ephesians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

God, Jesus, and power. Also, mark with the same symbol the words *wisdom, knowledge, know, and understanding.*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Ephesians 1:15-23. Remember, as you mark the words, *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them. Sometimes you may not be able to identify whether a personal pronoun refers to the Father as God or to Jesus as God. It may be helpful to mark those you are not sure of with both symbols (the one you have chosen for Jesus and the one you have chosen for the Father). You do not need to mark every word that refers them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. Using the marked references to Jesus in verses 20-23, make a list of what these verses reveal about Jesus. Record the verse reference next to each one.
- a. What does it mean to you that Jesus is *above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named for all time, that He put all things under His feet and that He gave Him to be head over all things to the church?*

DAYS TWO AND THREE: Read Ephesians 1:15-19a

1. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:16, *I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.* What had Paul *heard* about them (verse 15) that prompted these prayers?
- a. Read Colossians 1:4 and Philemon 1:5. Why do you think *love for the saints* is linked with *faith in Jesus*?
- b. What does John say about this in 1 John 4:8?
- 1.) What should a believer do when she finds herself lacking *love*?
2. A large portion of this week's verses is a prayer of Paul's for the believers in Ephesus. This prayer is also God's desire for each of His children. Go back over the text (verses 17-19a) and make a list of the things Paul prayed for.
- a. Which of these do you desire most to be worked into your life? Why?
3. Paul used several words to describe his desire for what we might *know*. Why do you think it is so important to *know* these things Paul wrote of?

- a. This *knowledge* is not simply imparted to us without any effort on our part. According to the following verses, where does this *enlightening* come from and how do we get it?

Psalm 119:105/Proverbs 6:23

John 8:12

John 16:13

4. Paul prayed that they might have a *knowledge* of Jesus. This *knowledge* speaks of a *knowledge* achieved by experience. What do you *know* about Jesus?
5. Ephesians 1:18 speaks of *the hope of His calling*. What does 1 John 3:1-3 tell us about our hope and the effect of our response to it?
- a. In what ways are we *purified* when we have this *hope*?
6. Paul has told us in Ephesians 1:11 and 14 that we have an *inheritance*. Verse 18 reminds us that this is a *rich inheritance*. Knowing we have a *rich inheritance* should affect our lives today. What does Matthew 6:19-21 say about this?
7. Read verse 19. Paul prayed that we know *what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe*. Describe the ways the *power* of God works in and through the believer.
- a. Although the *power* of God is available to all believers, many do not experience it in their daily lives. What are some things that prevent a believer from experiencing the power of God?
- b. *To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily (Colossians 1:29 NKJV). I work very hard at this, as I depend on Christ's mighty power that works within me (Colossians 1:29 NLT). Why would working very hard, even striving to do good in our own strength be powerless?*

DAYS FOUR AND FIVE: Read Ephesians 1:19b-23

1. The second part of verse 19 begins with the phrase *according to*. This phrase tells us why or how God does what He does. We often wonder why God loves us or why He has chosen for us to live with Him forever. Ephesians 1 supplies us with some answers. Record those answers from the verses in chapter 1 referenced below:

Verse 5

Verse 7

Verse 9

Verse 11

Verse 19

- a. Notice, not one of these verses teaches that God does something according to our goodness or works. What can we learn from this?
2. According to verse 20, when did God work His mighty power?
 - a. What kind of power does it take to raise someone from the dead?
 - 1.) Why is it important that God have enough power to raise Jesus from the dead? See 1 Corinthians 15:14.
 - 2.) Why would our faith be *empty* (in vain) if Christ is not risen?
 - 3.) According to Hebrews 1:3 and 10:12 what did Jesus secure for us before He went up to heaven?
 - b. Where is Christ *seated*?
 - 1.) What does Jesus do there? (Romans 8:34)
 3. Ephesians 1:21 tells us how high Christ is *seated*, not only physically, but in power. What is He *far above*?
 4. Read verse 22. How many things are *under Christ's feet*?
 - a. How many things is Christ *head over*?

- b. The phrase *to the church* indicates He did this for the benefit of the church. It is for us that Jesus is over *all*. What benefits do we have because *all things are under His feet* and *He is head over all things*?
- c. It has been rightly said that, “The Church has authority and power to overcome all opposition because her leader and head is Lord of all”. What prevents that from happening as much as it should?
- 1.) The church is not a building, but is made up of many believers such as yourself. What is your part in walking in the authority and power Christ has secured for you?
5. What word picture does Paul use to describe the *church* in verse 23?
- a. How does the *head* control the body?
- b. Scan through 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and record a few significant facts about the church as the *body of Christ*.
- c. What *body part* do you see as your place in the church? (There’s no right answer to this – just wanted you to think about it ☺)
6. Fill in the blanks to complete Ephesians 1:23. ...*which is His body, the _____ of _____ who _____*. The New Living Translation paraphrases this verse as: *And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence*. Using synonyms, describe something that is *full*.
- a. What are some words or phrases (antonyms) that would be the opposite of being *full*?
- b. What do you think Paul wants us to learn from the truths in this verse?

DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Paul's prayer is a model prayer, a prayer we can pray for ourselves and for others. What have you learned from this prayer?
 - a. Paul's requests in this prayer are spiritual. Why are *spiritual* requests more important than any others?

 - b. What are some other *spiritual* things you might pray?

2. Paul gave *thanks* for the believers in Ephesus. Share some things about other believers you are thankful for. Take a moment and thank God for them.

3. If someone asked you how they could pray for you, what would you say?

4. How does the knowledge of God's authority and control make you secure?

5. In what ways has this lesson spoken to you about the church being the *fullness* of Christ?

6. What was your favorite verse in this lesson? In what ways did God speak to you through it?

*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,
- Philippians 1:3-4*