

Auditorium Class

Ephesians- "The Believers' Riches in Christ"

Winter Quarter, 2013

Lesson II- Paul's Prayer for their Enlightenment (1:15-23)

Key Verse: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Eph 1:3)*

After Paul explained spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3-14), he expressed his earnest desire that Christians realize the extent of God's power and grace exercised on their behalf (Eph. 1:15-23).

In view of all God's blessings and having heard of their faith and love, Paul made his petition. He offered an almost identical prayer for the Colossians (Col. 1:3-12) which he said was "for the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth" (Col. 1:5-6).

Paul prays that they might know:

- What is the hope of His calling (1:18)
- What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance (1:18)
- What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (1:19)

Paul goes on to describe how this is in accordance to the working of the strength of His might which has been brought about in Christ when He was raised from the dead. After His resurrection, He was seated on the right hand of God, where He has all power both in Heaven and on Earth (Mt. 28:18). In this position, Christ is also head over the church, which is His body.

Questions:

1. What had Paul heard concerning the brethren at Ephesus? (1:15)
2. What was Paul's reaction to what he heard about the Ephesians? (1:16)
3. Based upon what Paul heard regarding the brethren, what did he ask that God do for them? (1:17-18)
4. What three things did Paul want the Ephesian brethren to know? (1: 18-19)

5. In verse 17, Paul prays that the Father would give them a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. How do we gain a knowledge of Him today (Ps. 119:105, 130; Rom. 10:17; II Tim. 2:15)?
6. What (or who) brought about all of the blessings that Christians in the first century and now enjoy? (1:20)
7. When did these blessings come about? (1:20)
8. What does Paul tell the Ephesians about Christ and the power He was given by the Father? (1:21, 22)
9. How much authority was given to Christ and where does it apply? (Mt. 28:18, 19)
10. Specifically, what did Paul say that Christ was the head over? (1:22, 23)
11. Is there more than one church? (1:22, 23; 4:4)