

Sermon Study Guide – Ephesians 1:15-23 - September 26, 2021
Extravagant Blessings Prompt Extraordinary Prayers

1. Ephesians 1:3-14

- *Take some time to reflect on some of the spiritual blessings that are mentioned in.
- *How can a recipient of these blessings from God respond appropriately?
- *Comment on one or two of these blessings for which you are particularly thankful.

Chosen By God	Adopted as God’s sons and daughters	Recipients of God’s grace
Redemption through Jesus’ blood	Forgiveness of sins	Know the mystery of God’s will
Hope in Christ	The gift of salvation	Indwelt by the Holy Spirit

2. “For this reason...” I pray. (v.15)

- *What kinds of things prompt or motivate people to pray? Why do you pray?
- *Compare Ephesians 3:14. **“For this reason** I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth derives its name...”
- *What have been the motivating factors in your most recent prayers?
- *Whose prayers have you heard or read that have taught you to pray?

3. “Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people...” (v.15)

- *In whom have you seen God at work?
- *In whom have you seen “faith in the Lord Jesus”?
- *Whom have you seen “loving all God’s people”?

4. “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” (v.16)
“I keep on asking...” (v.17)

- *What does Paul mean when he says he has “not stopped”? “keep on asking”?
- *Compare 1 Thessalonians 5:17 – **“Pray without ceasing.”**
- *For whom do you “not stop giving thanks”?
- *Whom do you remember in your prayers?
- *How persistent are you in your prayers?

5. “I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.” (v.17)

- *How well do you think you know God? (distant acquaintance, acquaintance, friend, buddy, ???)
- *To what would you attribute your “knowledge of God”?
- *In what contexts have you come to know God better?”
- *Do you think God has given you the “Spirit of wisdom and revelation”?
- *What would it take for you to get to know God better ?

6. “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.” (v.18)

- *How would you describe “the eyes of your heart”? Consider the song, *Open the Eyes of my Heart*.
- *To what do you consider yourself to be called? In what ways is hope a calling?
- *In what way is hope like an anchor? (Hebrews 6:19) Words in the context: promise, unchangeable.
- *What is an unbeliever’s relationship to this kind of hope? (Ephesians 2:12)
- *How confident are you that God holds the future? your future?
- *What impact does your hope have on your perspective? your life?

7. **“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know... the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.”** (v.18)

*What role have inheritances played in your life so far? What role do you expect them to play?

*Who do you think the recipient(s) of this inheritance is? Why?

View A – Believers will receive the inheritance in heaven.

View B – God will receive the inheritance which consists of the church (all believers).

*Would you rather receive the inheritance (View A) or be the inheritance (View B)?

8. **“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know...his incomparably great power for us who believe.”** (v.18,19)

*In what ways is God’s power described in verses 19-23? (words, events,

*How does God’s power compare to the power of other entities?

*In what way does God hold power in His church?

*In what situations have you seen God’s power demonstrated?

Sermon Outline – Ephesians 1:15-23

1. Why do we pray? What motivates us to pray?

a. We are motivated to pray when we know God has blessed us.

“For this reason...I pray.” (v.15)

b. We are motivated to pray when we see God at work in other people.

“Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people...I have not stopped praying for you.” (v.15,16)

2. How do we pray? Persistently!

“I have not stopped giving thanks for you.” (v.16) “I keep asking.” (v.17)

3. What do we pray for?

a. That We Might Know God Better

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”

b. That We Might Know The Hope Of God’s Calling

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.”

c. That We Might Know The Riches of God’s Glorious Inheritance

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know...the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.” (v.18)

d. That We Might Know His Incomparably Great Power

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know... his incomparably great power for us who believe. (v.18,19)

Dear God,

Thank you for the spiritual blessings you have given to me.

You have enriched my life and I am very thankful.

I pray that you would give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.

I pray that you would help me to know you better.

I pray that you would open the eyes of my heart.

I pray that you would help me to know the hope of my calling.

I pray that you would help me to know the riches of your glorious inheritance.

I pray that you would help me to know your incomparable power.

I pray that you would help my church submit to you as the head.

In Jesus’ name, AMEN.

Ephesians 1:15-23**Thanksgiving and Prayer****NIV**

¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.