

Connected

How to pray for your church

Ephesians 1:15-19

I. Message

a. Pray for God's wisdom to teach us about Him - v.17

- i. "The spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God"
- ii. He's asking God to give them this knowledge...**of God in Christ**
 1. Ironically, the knowledge of God comes from God
 2. And it comes of His grace, it is a gift (like faith, joy, love)
 - a. He is not obligated to us to teach us about Himself
 - i. But all good things come from Him - James 1:17
 - ii. James 1:5, Same passage - need wisdom? Ask
- iii. It is the knowledge **of Him** that we are after
 1. Paul is praying that they would know in their mind what they possess in Christ
 2. **Philippians 3:10**
 - a. If you are saved, you HAVE all the Jesus you can get
 - b. You just need to KNOW Him better
 - i. **Colossians 2:9-10**
 - ii. **To see Him for Who He really is!**

b. Pray for God's understanding to enlighten us in Him - v.18

- i. You need your eyes of understanding enlightened
 1. You have "eyes to see but you cannot see", as Jesus said
 2. "Ears to hear but you cannot hear"
- ii. You have the hope, the riches, the inheritance
 1. You just can't see it all yet
 2. This is why Paul is praying for them
 3. Notice: two things specifically
 - a. Understand the hope of His calling - what you have NOW
 - i. **Romans 8:28 - to God's eternal purpose**
 - ii. **Romans 8:29 - called to be like Jesus**
 - iii. **1 Corinthians 1:9 - called into fellowship**
 - iv. **1 Corinthians 7:15 - called to peace**
 - v. **Galatians 5:13 - called to liberty**
 - vi. **1 Thessalonians 2:12 - called to glory**
 - vii. **1 Thessalonians 4:7 - called to holiness**
 - viii. **1 Timothy 6:12 - called to life**
 - ix. **1 Peter 2:9 - called to light**
 - x. **1 Peter 3:9 - called to blessing**
 - xi. **1 Peter 1:3 - called to virtue**

- b. Understand riches of inheritance – what you have COMING
 - i. Romans 8:17 “And if (since) children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;”
 - ii. It’s actually HIS (Jesus’) inheritance
 - iii. But it is reserved for you!
 - iv. You are a full joint-heir
 - v. 1 Corinthians 2:9-11

c. Pray for God’s power to work in us for Him – v.19-20

- i. Or to more deeply understand this power
- ii. (4 different Greek words for power in these 2 verses)
 - 1. God has exceedingly great power
 - a. Ephesians 3:20 Power that is “...exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...”
 - b. And He has it TO US-WARD who believe! – v.19
 - c. “Toward us, the faithful”
 - d. His power is on full display in the healthy church!
 - i. It was the power He wrought in Christ at the resurrection
 - ii. The ultimate demonstration of power
 - iii. That is the level of God’s power is to YOU-ward!
 - 1. To evangelize – Acts 1:8
 - 2. To suffer victoriously – 2 Corinthians 4:7-9
 - 3. To serve – Colossians 1:29
 - a. God’s power pulls us to one another
 - b. For evangelism, suffering, service

II. Conclusion

- a. Are we daily connecting to Him in Jesus? (prayer)
- b. And are we praying for the right things for each other?
- c. Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”
- d. **Practical ways to pray better for FBCW:**
 - i. Think of spiritual concerns as the highest priority
 - ii. Schedule a regular time of week to pray for our church
 - iii. Pray as specifically as you can for individuals