

Enjoying every spiritual blessing

Ephesians 1:15-23

Goal

To know God better by understanding our connection to Christ and the unique role we have as part of his body.

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Remember the theme of Ephesians:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

1. Looking back in chapter one can you remember how God has blessed his family?

You are chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, predestined according to God's plan, you've been marked with the HS when you believed, living with hope in Christ.

2. What difference has this made in the lives of the Ephesian Christians? What fruit does Paul see in their lives?

Faith and love (and hope, which later Paul will pray for) are the distinguishing marks of a true Christian. In his letters Paul often refers to these qualities as distinguishing features of the Christian life.

And now Paul prays for the Ephesian Christians.

3. What does Paul pray for the Ephesians?

Praying for others is an important part of our prayer lives. How do you usually pray for others? What do we learn through Paul about praying for other Christians?

4. Paul writes about the *great power* at work in the lives of believers. What do we learn about this power at work in Christians?

The extraordinary divine force by which Jesus was raised from the dead is the same power at work in and through believers.

5. What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

How is our relationship to Jesus described here? What do we learn about Christian identity?

We are his body. He is head over everything for the church.

Remember the church is at the center of God's purposes and plans. Christ died for the church: he created it and now we see him working for the good of the church, his body, God's family.

Let's explore this connection between Jesus and the church by examining Hebrews 2:5-18 together.

Humanity was created to rule the world under God. We have failed but God has raised up a man, Jesus Christ, to rule as humanity should. He will raise up his family, the church, to rule with him and restore the order of creation.

Application

What has God impressed on you through this study?