



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

## Ephesians, Chapter 1 (Part-III)

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

### Paul's Prayer

**Paul's Prayer (15-23):** What makes Paul a man of worship and a man of prayer? What are two admirable qualities of Ephesus believers that Paul recognizes? (15,16) What is the core focus of Paul's prayer for believers? (15-19) Who is he addressing his prayers to? (17) What is the source of our knowledge and wisdom? What are three aspects of Paul's prayer in relation to knowledge, and what does it mean? (18-19) Where is the Lord seated? What is the significance of mentioning it here? (20) What does principalities & power refer to? (21) Who is the head of the church (22-23)?

4..21.21

**Personal Reflection:** *Why are we not content when God has already blessed us with all spiritual blessings? Do we recognize and appreciate the priceless value of spiritual blessings in our life? How is our prayer life (for others)? Are we subject to the Lordship of Christ in our life, as individuals and as a church?*

# Six Spiritual Blessings (verses 3-14)

Election

Predestination

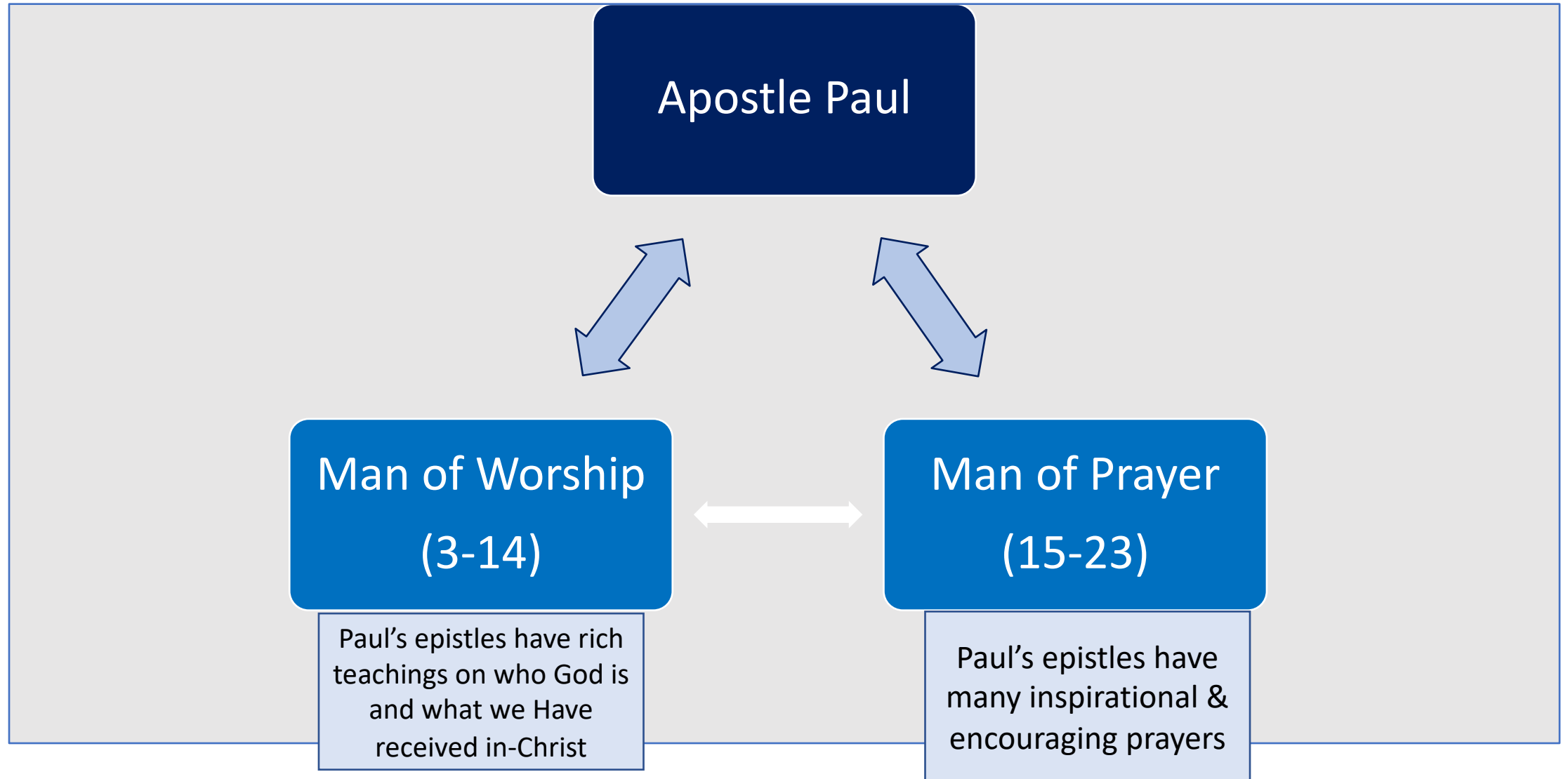
Redemption

Mystery  
Revealed

Holy Spirit

WORSHIP

# Worship + Prayer



# Prayer

An **important discipline** in the life of Lord Jesus Christ

- And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed, **Mark 1:35**
- Lord must have prayed for wisdom & strength to do God's will.  
How much more should we pray?
- Prominent prayers of the Lord (Matthew 6:9-13, John 17)

# Paul's great prayer life

Paul **prayed for others**: local churches, believers that he had ministered to or disciplined, and for nations (Romans 10:1)

Paul **exhorts us** to:

- to pray for rulers (I Timothy 2:1-3),
- to pray and not be anxious (Philippians 4:6-7),
- to pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17)

Paul **sought the prayers** of others (Romans 15:3—33)

Paul **prayed for himself** (I Corinthians 12:8)

# Paul's 'always' prayer life

- I thank my God always on your behalf (I Corinthians 1:4)
- I thank my God upon every remembrance of you (Philippians 1:3)
- Praying always for you (Colossians 1:3)
- Always... making mention in prayers (I Thessalonians 1:2)
- I thank my God making mention of thee always in my prayers (Philemon 1:4)
- Paul had the heart of a true shepherd that cares for the sheep (John 10:11-13)
- **How did Paul find time to pray + be active in ministry + be a tentmaker?**

# Two great qualities of Ephesus believers (15)

## Faith + Love

- Faith in Lord Jesus Christ
- + Love for saints
  - Our Love is a fruit of true salvation experience
  - Faith without works is dead. Works (love for others) will follow if we truly love the Lord
- How did Ephesus church develop these great qualities? (partly due to Paul's ministry ... Paul was with them for three years, Acts)

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (1 John 4:20)

# Focus of Paul's prayer for Ephesus believers

Spiritual

(not material prosperity or earthly needs or personal healing etc.)

This is evident in Paul's other prayers also  
(for example, Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 1:9-12)

Jesus emphasized the same (Mathew 6:33 ... seek ye first ...)  
Psalmist also reminds us what should comes first (Psalms 37:4)

# Focus of Paul's prayer (examples)

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God (**Philippians 1:9-11**)

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup> That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; <sup>12</sup> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (**Colossians 1:9-12**)

# Who are the prayers addressed to?

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of glory** (17)

As seen before in verse 3: Worship also addressed to God and Father of Lord Jesus Christ.

God is also **God** of Jesus (**Mathew 27:46**)  
and **Father** of Jesus (**Luke 23:46**)

**Knowledge & wisdom:** “spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened” (17,18)

**Source:** “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3) “To God belong wisdom” (Job 12:13) “for the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6)

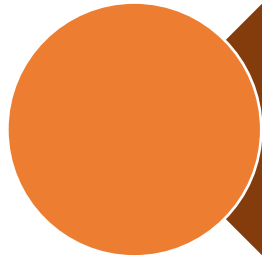
**Enlightenment** – shedding light on something through the gift of the Holy Spirit (not new revelation)

We must labor in the word of God to receive enlightenment

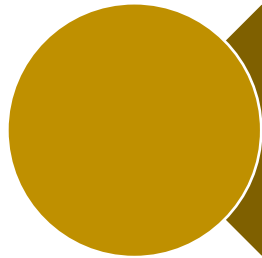
Light contrasted with darkened perspective of unbelievers,  
(Ephesians 4:18, II Corinthians 4:4-6)

What is Paul's prayer regarding 3 aspects that believers must know? (18-19)

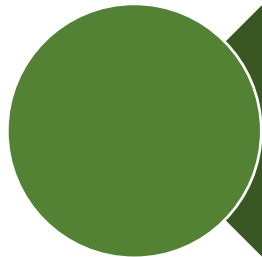
# What is Paul's prayer regarding what a believer must know?



Know the Hope of His **Calling**



Know the riches of the glory of  
His **Inheritance** in saints



Know the exceeding greatness of  
His **Power**

# #1 Hope of His calling (18)

We are partakers of **Heavenly calling** (Hebrews 3:1) **Holy Calling** (II Timothy 1:9)

“For God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29, NIV)

“who hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace” (II Timothy 1:9)

- **Our Hope ends in eternal glory!** Our calling is predestinated to end in glorification

“But the God of all grace, who hath **called us unto his eternal glory** by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (I Peter 5:10) and Romans 8:28-30

## #2 Riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (18)

- God considers us as His inheritance, His special possessions!
  - The Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance ([Deut. 32:9](#))
- We are also **promised an inheritance** as joint heirs with Christ
  - [Acts 20:32](#) (inheritance for sanctified), [Hebrews 9:15](#) (eternal inheritance),  
I [Peter 1:4](#) (incorruptible, undefiled, fadeth not away, reserved)

# #3 Exceeding greatness of His power (19)

His glorious, divine, and mighty Power is able to:

- Translate us from spiritual death to spiritual life ([Ephesians 2:1](#))
  - Translate us from bodily death to glorious resurrection ([I Corinthians 15:55](#))
  - Give us strength to joyfully endure trials ([Colossians 1:11](#))
  - Grace to do His work ([Colossians 1:29](#))
  - Live godly lives ([II Peter 1:3](#))
  - Enable us do all things ([Philippians 1:23](#))
- 
- With such power we should never feel weak or incapable
  - Let us lean on Him to receive power ([Isaiah 40:28-31](#), [Jeremiah 32:27](#), [Luke 1:37](#))

**Power demonstrated** <sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places

The power not only raised Christ from the grave but ascended Him to the heavenly places.

Such power is available to us! ... God is able to take us from the lowest point to the highest point (in our spiritual and daily life)

David's experience (Psalms 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings)

# Where is the Lord Jesus Christ seated? (20,21)

Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places

- Position of honor, authority and power
- Far above everything in this world and the world to come
- Everything is under His subjection (including the Church)

Church (from Greek, *ekklesia* or *called out ones*) bought with His precious blood ([Acts 20:28](#))

- The Church has a powerful leader ... Lord Jesus Christ! ... no wonder the gates of hell cannot prevail against it! ([Matthew 16:18](#))
- Christ completes the Church ... filleth all in all (23)

# Principalities and Power

**A.** It generally refers to **invisible satanic/evil forces** that hinder the work of God and oppose/distract/tempt the children of God

- God is in control of these forces (Ephesians 1:21, Colossians 1:13, 1:16, 2:15)
- It is part of believer's spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12)
- We will be conquerors (Romans 8:37-39)
- Power will end, and God's divine order will be restored (I Corinthians 15:24)

**B.** It also refer to **rulers in this world** (Romans 13:1-3, Titus 3:1) and we are called to be subject to them to maintain order.

Why are we not content when God has already blessed us with all spiritual blessings? Do we recognize and appreciate the priceless value of spiritual blessings in our life? How is our prayer life (for others)? Are we subject to the Lordship of Christ in our life, as individuals and as a church?

## Personal Reflection



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