



Ephesians 1:15-23 – Prayers For The People

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- What drove Paul to pray here was not a particular problem; instead, it was his vision of the greatness of God.
- Vs 15–16 – “Since I heard about your faith... and love...”, I gave both thanks, and lifted you up in my prayers.

It is remarkable that in all of his writings Paul's prayers for his friends contain no appeals for changes in their circumstances.

Timothy Keller, *Prayer*, Westminster:Penguin, 2016, page 20.

- Vs 18 – I pray that you might “know” - Hebraic understanding of knowledge is not just intellectual but experiential.
- Paul then prays for 3 specific things for them (vs 18-20):
 - 1) the hope of God’s call,
 - 2) the riches of his glory and
 - 3) the greatness of his power.
- Vs 18a - 1) The Hope to which God has called us.
- We are called to the hope of being His people, holy, righteous, full of joy, peace and love – a worshipping people, living together in unity with each other and on mission and witness in this world.
- Vs 18b - 2) God’s glorious inheritance for His saints.
- 1 Peter 1:4-5 – see also 1 Cor 2:9; Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17-18.
- Vs 19-20 - 3) God’s great power for us who believe.
- The same power that both raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him to the highest place in heaven.
- Vs 20-23 - Three historic events that the Scriptures attest to.
 - a. Resurrection of Jesus from the dead (vs 20a),
 - b) Placed him at God’s right hand in the heavenly places, putting all things under his feet (vs 20b-22a) and
 - c) Made Him head over all things for the church, which is his body (vs 22b, 23).

A Prayer Based on Ephesians 1:17-20

Glorious Father, I ask that you may give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that he/she may know you better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of _____’s heart may be enlightened in order that he/she may know the hope to which You have called us, the riches of Your glorious inheritance in us, Your holy people, ¹⁹ and Your incomparably great power for us who believe. We thank you and we praise you in Jesus’ name. Amen.