

1  **A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Ephesians 1:15-23

2  **EPHESIANS 1:15-18**

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

3  **EPHESIANS 1:19-23**

• <sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. <sup>22</sup> And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

4  **A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

- 1) A PRAYER THAT THEY WILL KNOW GOD;
- 2) A PRAYER THAT THEY WILL KNOW GOD'S PROMISES;
- 3) A PRAYER THAT THEY WILL KNOW GOD'S POWER; and
- 4) A PRAYER THAT THEY WILL KNOW CHRIST'S POSITION.
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5  **A PRAYER THAT THEY WILL KNOW GOD**

- vv. 16b-17 – “. . . making mention of you in my prayers; <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.”
- This is the key, the foundation, the heart of the prayer
- The Greek language - verb that means to know deeply, personally, intimately.
- Example – Knowing the president – Knowing my wife

6  **KNOWING GOD**

- To know God – the number one priority of every person in the world
- To know God better -- the goal of every Christian
- God is a stranger to the average Christian – We don't really know Him.
- O'Reilly Factor – Watter's World segment
- Fear that is the situation with us Christians – We don't know God

7  **STORY IN THE MIND CHANGERS**

Kindergarten teacher who asked her class to draw something that was important to them.

Everybody finished but Johnny.

Teacher asked, "What are you drawing?"

Johnny, "God."

Teacher, "Johnny, no one knows what God looks like."

Johnny answered, ". . . . . "

8  **HOW DO WE KNOW GOD?**

- Through a conversion experience.

- We need to seek God. Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God."
- The salute
- The Christian's salute to God

#### 9 **SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER**

- Sweet hour of prayer, Sweet Hour of prayer
- Thy wings shall my petition bear
- To Him whose truth and faithfulness
- Engage the waiting soul to bless;
- And since He bids me seek His face,
- Believe His Word and trust His grace,
- I'll cast on Him my every care,
- And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

#### 10 **A PRAYER THAT THEY WILL KNOW GOD'S PROMISES**

- v. 18 – "I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light (enlightened) so that you can understand (know) the wonderful future he has promised to those he called (hope of His calling). I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people" (NLT).

#### 11 **THE PROMISE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

- Paul's prayer for them – that their *hearts will be flooded with light* so that they will know and understand all the blessings God has provided for them.
- Thorntons Installing motion lights
- Paul's prayer for the Ephesians: He prays that their hearts will be enlightened so that they know God and all that He has blessed them with.
- Too many Christians are in the dark as far as knowing God and His blessings.

#### 12 **AN EXAMPLE**

- Young man who has been raised in a Christian home
- He goes off to college
- A Problem
- What's the problem? The floodlight of the Spirit has not penetrated into their hearts.
- What we need to do is take Paul's advice and pray for them.

#### 13 **THE PROMISE OF THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING**

- Paul prayed for them that they "may know what is the hope of His calling."
- God has called us to hope!
- In the NT "hope" is always the expectation of something good. It is also something we must wait for.
- The Best Example: Christmas
- He is praying for them that after the light goes on in their hearts, then they will have that hope, that joy, that excitement for all the things God has promised and provided for His children.

#### 14 **THE PROMISE OF A RICH INHERITANCE**

- "... what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints"
- It is not our inheritance, but God's.
- You and I, God's saints, are God's inheritance.
- Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own"

inheritance.”

- The amazing thing is that God should consider as His treasure these sinners who have been rescued from eternal condemnation.