



TITLE:

Ephesians 1:15-16 – Paul’s Prayer (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND SECTION:

- Ephesians 1:15-23 the second section of the doctrinal content.
- Paul followed his longest sentence in the original Greek with another long sentence of 170 Greek words describing his prayer for the Ephesians.
- It is the first of the two of his prayers in the epistle. The other is in 3:14-21.

¹⁵ Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

¹⁶ Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

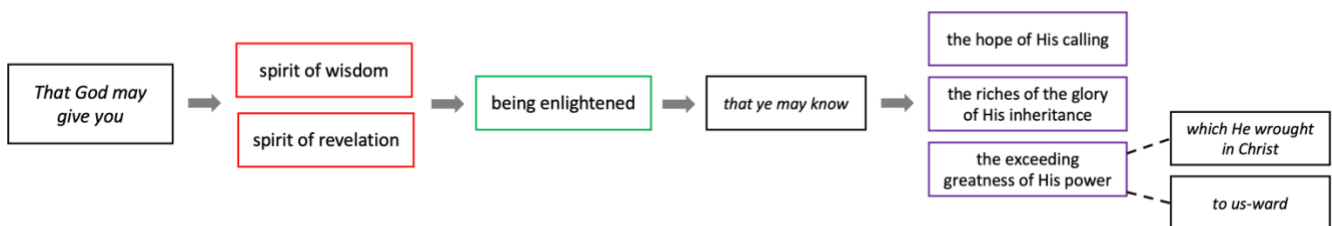
¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

²⁰ Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

²² And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all things to the church,

²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.



INTRODUCTION:

- Paul's prayer life was habitual, extensive, and theologically rich.
 - o We should measure our prayer life with Paul's prayer.
 - o He prayed with thanksgiving.
 - o He prayed without ceasing.
 - o He prayed for spiritual knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. His focus is on the "inner man" and not the "outer man."
 - o He acknowledges the importance of prayer. Even though he very well and clearly explained our position in Jesus Christ, he still recognizes that only God can give knowledge, understanding, and wisdom about what he mentioned.

MOTIVATION OF PAUL'S PRAYER

- Paul heard that the Ephesian church members are continuing in their faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the saints.
 - o This prompts him to keep praying for them.
 - o Two things that the Ephesians have: faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the saints.
 - o These are the same characteristics of the Colossian church members and Philemon. Compare Col. 1:4 and Phm. 5. He wrote to them at the same time he wrote to the Ephesians.
- Faith in the Lord Jesus
 - o This is the way of salvation.
 - o Salvation is a birth. It is a one-time event for a person. Paul said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." - Acts 16:31
 - o The Ephesian believers put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ after they heard the word of truth and the gospel of salvation (1:13).
 - o Saving faith is a continuing faith. You cannot believe in the Lord Jesus Christ today and not tomorrow.
 - A person who professed faith in the Lord then went back to idolatry shows that his faith is not saving faith.
- Love unto all the saints.
 - o This is the evidence of salvation.
 - o The book of 1 John shows three tests for assurance of one's salvation.
 - One of them is the social test. The others are moral and doctrinal tests.
 - Compare 1 John 2:9-11, 3:15, 4:20.
 - o This is love is *agapē* which means unconditional, selfless, and sacrificial kind of love.
 - o This love is not unto some saints but unto ALL the saints.
 - o Paul described this love as:
 - Forbearing one another in love (4:2).
 - Speaking the truth in love (4:15).
 - Edifying the church in love (4:16).
 - Christ-like and sacrificial love (5:2).
- These are the characteristics of the Ephesian church members 10 years after Paul established it.
 - o Sadly, 30 years after this point. The Lord rebuked the pastor of the church for leaving his first love (Rev. 2:4).

HABITUAL AND CONTINUAL PRAYER OF PAUL

- Paul didn't cease or stop praying for the Ephesians.
 - o Luke 18:1 - And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
 - o 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.
 - o Ephesians 6:18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.
- Part of his prayer is thanksgiving.
 - o 1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
 - o Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
- His prayer is making mention or remembrance in prayers - plural.
 - o He doesn't just check off prayer from his to-do list; he truly dedicates time to prayer.