

Sermon Outline

Praying for Everyone You Know

Ephesians 1:15-20

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ephesians begins in praise and moves quickly to prayer. In the Apostle's great prayer for the Ephesian Church we find instruction and inspiration for our own praying. Here is yet another "school of prayer."

I. *Foundations for Prayer – Ephesians 1:15-17*

- A. Prayer's Genesis is Thanksgiving – Ephesians 1:15-16
- B. Prayer's Goal is Knowing God – Ephesians 1:17
 - *Epignosis*: full, complete, overflowing
 - Philippians 3:7-10
- C. Prayer's Home is the Trinity – Ephesians 1:17
 - To the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit

II. *Petitions for Prayer – Ephesians 1:18-20*

- A. We Need the Holy Spirit (which begins with Confessing our Emptiness)
 1. Wisdom – the Cross
 2. Revelation – Discerning God's Hand in Life
 - To "see" revelation is to be transformed – 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - Revelation from God is not simply informational, but transformational; some things are "better caught than taught."
- B. We Need Opened Eyes to See (which begins with Confessing our Blindness)
 1. *The Hope of His Calling*
 - a. Called into *Fellowship* with Christ – 1 Corinthians 1:9
 - b. Called into *Holiness* through Christ – 2 Timothy 1:9
 - c. Called into *Freedom* in Christ – Galatians 5:13
 - d. Called into *One Body* of Christ – Colossians 3:15
 2. *The Riches of His Inheritance*
 - a. We *have* an inheritance (vv.11 and 14)
 - b. We *are* an inheritance (v.18)
 - Psalm 79:1; Psalm 2; Mark 12:7
 - Many Christians today despise Christ's Inheritance
 3. *The Surpassing Greatness of His Power*
 - God's Power is in and upon his Church – those who believe
 - God's Power is through the Holy Spirit
 - God's Power is Resurrection Power – changing our "view" of all around us. The "gods?" No problem! Christ is Lord over all.