

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1:15-23 - UNDERSTANDING THE RICHES AND POWER OF CHRIST

- I. PAUL'S PRIORITY - vs. 15, 16 - "Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:"
 - A. "after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints"
 - B. "do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers"
 1. The loving pastor
 - a. 20:17-38 (specifically vs.19,27,29,31, and 36)
 - b. I Peter 5:2-4
 - c. Testimony of every epistle, particularly II Corinthians 2:4; 11:2; 12:15
 2. The praying pastor
 - a. Acts 6:3,4
 - b. Romans 1:9; Colossians 1:9; I Thessalonians 3:10; II Timothy 1:3
 - c. John Calvin, ". . . those who intend their labor to be profitable to the edifying of the church, and those who have true zeal, must not only give themselves to teaching, but also, at the same time, pray God to work with them by his power and grace. For it often happens that we simply beat the air . . . because we do not pray God to further the doctrine that we preach." And John Owen, "He that is more frequent in his pulpit to his people than he is in his closet for his people, is but a sorry watchman."
 3. The thankful pastor
 4. The model pastor
 - a. Ephesians 6:18, 19
 - b. Philippians 4:6, 7

- II. PAUL'S FIRST PETITION - vs. 17,18a - "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, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened . . ."
- A. "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,"
 - B. "may give to you"
 - C. "the spirit of wisdom and revelation"
 - D. "in the knowledge of Him"
 - E. "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened"
- III. PAUL'S SECOND PETITION - vs. 18b - "that you may know what is the hope of His calling,"
- A. "that you may know"
 - B. "the hope of His calling"
- IV. PAUL'S THIRD PETITION - vs. 18c - "what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"
- A. "the riches of the glory" - John 14:1-3; Romans 8:18
 - B. "of His inheritance in the saints" - II Tim. 4:7,8
- V. PAUL'S FOURTH PETITION - vs. 19-23 - "and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 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. And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him to *be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."
- A. "the exceeding greatness of his power" - Jer. 13:23; Rom. 8:3; Ephesians 2:1
 - B. "toward us who believe,"
 - C. "according to the working of His mighty power"
 - D. "which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead"
 - E. "and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*"
 - F. "far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named,"

- G. “not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”
- H. “And He put all *things* under His feet,”
- I. “and gave Him to *be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body,”
- J. “the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

VI. APPLICATION

- A. Prayer is reflected in love -
- B. Spiritual growth in both knowledge and character are vital -
- C. We serve a mighty God who loves us greatly and forever -