

PAUL'S PRAYERS – 2

JULY 9, 2025

INTRO:

Ephesus was a major city known as a center for pagan worship. The temple of Diana was located just outside the city—known as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Ephesus was a significant center for the early Church, with Paul spending three years preaching there. The letter was considered “The greatest piece of writing” by W. O. Carver, an American Baptist theologian, and “The divinest composition of man” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, an English poet. It was written by Paul while imprisoned in Rome, where he also wrote his letter to the Colossians and Philemon.

Paul's Prayer (Ephesians 1)

V 15-16 - Paul points out two characteristics—their faith in Jesus and their love for the saints. He's thankful for them and prays for them continually.

V 17 - Paul identifies God as the Father of Jesus and the source of all glory. His prayer is for spiritual insight, not just intellectual knowledge. For Believers to experience a deeper, more intimate and transformative knowledge of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

V 18-20 – He prays for their hearts to be flooded with light and given a revelation of three important truths:

1. The hope of His calling: The confident expectation of experiencing all the blessings promised by God in Christ, both now and in the life to come.
2. The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints: in **Verses 13-14**, the Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, which includes – being raptured, a family reunion, our new body, eternal rewards, and being seated with Christ in a position of honor and triumph.
3. The exceeding greatness of His power to us: the incredible, unmeasurable, unlimited power that was displayed in the Resurrection and seating of Christ.

V 21 – Christ's authority surpasses all levels of authority and power. No matter the title, position, name, or level of authority, Jesus is superior to them all. His authority extends beyond this world, to the world which is to come.

V 22-23 – The Body of Christ is the means through which His power and presence are manifested in the world today.

Conclusion: Paul's prayer emphasizes our need for a revelation of the hope we have in Christ, the inheritance we have in Him, the power we have in Him, and the supremacy of Christ over all things, including the church, and every level of authority.