

## Ephesians

### Lesson 3

#### Paul's First Prayer For The Ephesians

Eph. 1:15-23

## Spiritual Blessings In Christ

1. Chose us to be holy and blameless
2. Predestined us to adoption as sons
3. Redeemed and forgave us through Jesus' blood
4. Made known to us the mystery of His will
5. Obtained an eternal inheritance
6. Sealed with the Holy Spirit

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## Introduction

- As Christians, we are richly blessed in Christ
- But, we can fail to either know about or live a life in harmony with these blessings in Christ
- Paul prays that the Ephesians may know God, the hope of His calling, the glory of our inheritance and His great power toward us

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## Introduction

- This is the same power the Father used to raise Jesus from the dead and exalt Him at His right hand over all things
- What Paul prays for here is what God would desire for all His saints even today
- Also, it would be good for us to pray in this way for one another

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## Paul's First Prayer For The Ephesians

1. Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints Eph. 1:15-16
2. For what things did he pray? Eph. 1:17-20
3. God exalted Jesus above all Eph. 1:19-23

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## Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints

Col 1:3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col 1:4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

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Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Col 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

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Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints

Col 1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

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Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints

Php 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Php 1:4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

Php 1:5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

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Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints

Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

Php 1:10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

Php 1:11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints

Eph 1:15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

Eph 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

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## He Prays They May Know God

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

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## Having A Knowledge of God Must Be Valued Above All

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;

Jer 9:24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

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## Having A Knowledge of God Leads To Eternal Life

Joh 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

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## Failing To Know And Obey God Leads To Destruction

2Th 1:7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

2Th 1:8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

2Th 1:9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,<sup>15</sup>

## Knowledge of God Would Come By A Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

- In the first century, the apostles were directly guided by the Holy Spirit in revealing and confirming the gospel
- Through them, miraculous gifts were given to certain Christians including gifts relating to learning and teaching the gospel
- Today, we have the complete written New Testament that we can read and understand

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## The Spirit Guided The Apostles Into All Truth

Joh 16:12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.

Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

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## The Apostles Give Miraculous Gifts To Some Christians

1Co 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1Co 12:8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

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## Today We Can Know God By Reading The New Testament

Eph 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

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## He Prays They May Know The Hope of God's Calling

Eph 1:18 *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

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## We Are Called By The Gospel To Be Justified Sanctified and Glorified

2Th 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2Th 2:14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## We Are Called By The Gospel To Be Justified Sanctified and Glorified

Rom 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

Rom 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

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## He Prays They May Know The Riches of God's Inheritance

Eph 1:18 *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

23

## He Prays They May Know The Riches of God's Inheritance

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1Pe 1:4 *to obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

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## He Prays They May Know The Riches of God's Inheritance

1Pe 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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## He Prays They May Know The Power of God Toward Us

Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might  
Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places,*

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## His Power Shown By Raising Jesus and Us From The Dead

Rom 1:4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

1Co 6:14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

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## His Power Shown By Saving Us By The Gospel

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

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## His Power Shown By Saving Us By The Gospel

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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## His Power Shown By Strengthening Us By The Gospel

Eph 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

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## His Power Shown By Strengthening Us By The Gospel

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Eph 3:21 to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

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## His Power Shown By Strengthening Us By The Gospel

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Eph 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

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## Paul's First Prayer For The Ephesians

1. Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints Eph. 1:15-16
2. For what things did he pray? Eph. 1:17-20
3. God exalted Jesus above all Eph. 1:19-23

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## God Exalts Jesus Above All

Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

Eph 1:20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

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## God Exalts Jesus Above All

Eph 1:21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## God Exalted Jesus Above All

- The prophets foretold not only Jesus' death and resurrection but also His exaltation at the right hand of God
- Jesus' reign as Lord and Christ confirmed on the day of Pentecost
- He is now king of the nations, our high priest and head of His church
- His reign continues until the resurrection of the dead

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## Jesus' Exaltation Foretold By David

Psa 110:1 **A Psalm of David.** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

Psa 110:2 The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

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## Jesus' Exaltation Foretold By David

Psa 110:3 Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew.

Psa 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

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## Jesus' Exaltation Confirmed On Pentecost

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Act 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

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## Jesus' Exaltation Confirmed On Pentecost

Act 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,  
Act 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

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## Jesus' Exaltation Confirmed On Pentecost

Act 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

Act 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

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## Jesus' Exaltation Confirmed On Pentecost

Act 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

Act 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

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## Jesus' Exalted Now As King of The Nations

1Pe 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

1Ti 6:15 which He will bring about at the proper time--He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

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## Jesus' Exalted Now As Our High Priest

Heb 8:1 Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 8:2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

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## Jesus' Exalted Now As Our High Priest

Heb 10:12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

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## Jesus' Reign Ends At The Resurrection of The Dead

1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

1Co 15:24 then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

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## Jesus' Reign Ends At The Resurrection of The Dead

1Co 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

1Co 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

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## Jesus Made Head Over All Things To The Church

- Many times this passage is confused with other passages that clearly state Jesus is head of His church, His body,
- But here, Paul states Jesus is head of all things to the church
- He is in control of all things and works all things for the good of His saved people, the church

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## Jesus Made Head Over All Things To The Church

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## Jesus Made Head Over All Things To The Church

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

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## Jesus Made Head Over All Things To The Church

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

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## Jesus Made Head Over All Things To The Church

Rom 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Rom 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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## Jesus Made Head of His Church

Eph 5:22 Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

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## Jesus Made Head of His Church

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

Eph 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Eph 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

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## Jesus' Church Is His Body

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## Jesus' Church Is His Body

- Jesus' church is not a worldwide organization governed by centralized earthly power
- Jesus' church is not a body of bodies of denominations that differ in name, organization and teaching
- Jesus' church is not a body of local churches that must function as "one"

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## Jesus' Church Is His Body

- Jesus' church is His saved people, an assembly of individuals who are submissive to Jesus
- We become members of His body when we become Christians through belief, repentance, confessing Jesus as the Son of God and baptism for forgiveness of sins
- Jesus saves individuals not an institution

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## Jesus Adds Us To His One Body When We Become Christians

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch \*said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

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## Jesus Adds Us To His One Body When We Become Christians

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## Jesus Adds Us To His One Body When We Become Christians

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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## Jesus Adds Us To His One Body When We Become Christians

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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## As We Learn and Apply The Gospel We Express The Fullness of Christ

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

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## As We Learn and Apply The Gospel We Express The Fullness of Christ

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

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## As We Learn and Apply The Gospel We Express The Fullness of Christ

Col 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

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1. Paul often thanked God and prayed for the Ephesians and for other saints Eph. 1:15-16
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