

# Outline of Ephesians 1-3

- I. God's eternal purpose in Christ (1:3 – 3:21)
  - A. Spiritual blessings in Christ (1:3-14)
  - B. Paul's prayer for them in Christ (1:15-23)
    - 1. Have the spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:15-19)
    - 2. Understand the exalted position of Christ (1:20-21)
    - 3. Know the authority of Christ over the church (1:22-23)
  - C. God's plan for our salvation (2:1-10)
  - D. The difference Christ makes (2:11-22)
    - 1. God's family is different (2:11-12)
    - 2. God's law is different (2:14-15)
    - 3. God's foundation is different (2:20)
    - 4. God's temple is different (2:21-22)
  - E. The church is according to God's eternal purpose (3:1-21)

## Ephesians 1:15-23

- A prayer for their enlightenment or illumination
  - Not miraculous
  - Realize the extent of God's power
  - Very similar prayer in Colossians 1:3-12
- Perhaps 5 years since Paul was in Ephesus
  - Very interested in their spiritual health

# Two Key Characteristics of the Saints

- Faith
- Love
- Galatians 5:5-6
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

# Paul's Prayer for the Saints

- 1. That God may “give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”
  - Define: spirit, revelation, knowledge
  - Colossians 1:9
- How will this happen and for whom?
  - Ephesians 3:5
- Result?
  - “Eyes of your understanding being enlightened”

# Paul's Prayer for the Saints

- 2. That “you may know what is the hope of His calling”
- What are the benefits of hope for Christians?
- 3. That you may know “what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”
- What are the qualities of His inheritance?

# Paul's Prayer for the Saints

- 4. That you may know “what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...”
  - More of this described in chapter 3
  - Note all the superlatives – His power, working, mighty, power
- What does this have to do with our resurrection?

# Four Great Works in Christ Showing God's Power

- Verses 20-23
- 1. Raised Christ from the dead
- 2. Made Him sit at His right hand
- 3. Put all things in subjection to Him
- 4. Gave Him to be head over all things to the church

# Take Aways

- Paul's example: a praying man
- Paul prayed for the spiritual well-being of other Christians. Should we? Do we?
- What God will give us when we pursue His knowledge and what it will accomplish for us
- The basis and the certainty of our hope
- Christ and the church in God's eternal purpose
  - His exalted position
  - His authority over the church