

OPEN OUR EYES, LORD!

Ephesians 1:15-23

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I. The apostle prays because of the church's spiritual riches (vv. 15-16).

- A. Paul does not pray sporadically.
- B. Paul does not pray sorrowfully.

II. The apostle prays for the church's spiritual knowledge (vv. 17-19).

- A. Paul wants them to know God Himself.
- B. Paul wants them to know God's grace and power.

III. The apostle prays by faith in Christ's spiritual glory (vv. 20-23).

- A. Paul prays with confidence in Christ's exaltation.
- B. Paul prays with confidence in Christ's relation to His church.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is the relationship between Paul's praise (vv. 3-14) and his prayer (vv. 15-23)?
2. Does Paul pray for the Ephesians because something is wrong? What does this teach us about how we should pray?
3. Why does Paul pray for God to give His Spirit to the Ephesians when they already have the Spirit?
4. What does it mean to know God? What must the Spirit do in order for us to grow in knowledge of God?
5. Where is Christ presently? Why does this give us confidence in our living and our praying?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. What does my prayer life say about my love for fellow believers?
2. What does my prayer life (specifically the content of my petitions) say about my chief aims and desires in life? Is knowing God in Christ my predominate passion?
3. What does my worship, fellowship, service, and evangelism say about my prayer life?
4. How could I move more in the direction of praying like Paul?