

Section 2

Paul's first prayer – Ephesians 1:15-23

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Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

Introduction (verses 15-16)

- The Apostle **gave thanks for the saints, and prayed for them**
- We saw in Session 1 that it is **in Christ** that we are brought into blessing.
- Our blessings are secured in Him
 - we do not have to pray that we might be blessed.
- But the Apostle wants us to **understand** what it means to be blessed in Christ.

Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

- For example, it is one thing to own something of beauty or value, but what good is it to us if
 - Either, we do not know we own it,
 - Or, we never visit it or look at it (no appreciation).
- Sadly, many Christians
 - do not **know** what their blessings are in Christ
 - Or, if they do, they do not **enjoy** them.
- We need to “put our foot” on these things (Joshua 1:3).
- Therefore, Paul prays that we might appreciate something of:
 - the union of Christ and His assembly
 - the place that Christ takes in the universe, and what that means for His assembly.

“Every
place
whereon
the sole of
your foot
shall tread
have I
given to
you, as I
said unto
Moses.”

Joshua 1:3

Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

To whom is the prayer addressed? (verse 17)

- See chapter 1:3 – “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- But see:
 - Chapter 1:17 “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ”
 - Chapter 3:14 “the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- These differences are not put in for variety or because the names are synonymous – they are not
 - 1:17 speaks of God in relation to Christ as “Man”
 - 3:14 speaks of the Father in relation to the Son

Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

- Thus, in chapter 1 we see Christ as Man, ...raised, exalted and glorified.
- As Son of God, He created the universe
- As Man in resurrection, He has complete authority over it (v 20 to 23, esp. v.21)
- This is the One with whom we are now associated
 - and this passage is to help us to understand what that means
- **Once under the man of sin, we have to do with the “second man” “the Lord from heaven”.**
- So, the prayer can also be addressed to “the Father of glory” (v17).

Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

What was it he prayed for, in particular? (verses 18 – 19)

- “That ye may know what is”
 1. the hope of His calling (see verses 3 to 5)
 - » Note: it is “His” calling, not our calling
 2. the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (see verse 11)
 - » “His” inheritance, not ours
 3. the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe
 - How great?
 - > The **Power** that brings to that position is the same as that which raised Christ and put all things under Him (verses 20 to 23)

Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

Christ's position in resurrection

(verses 20-23)

- **How was He raised?**

- “According to the might of [God's] strength”
- Raised from among the dead
- He set Him down at His own right hand... in the heavenlies
- Above
 - > every principality, power, and dominion
 - > every name that is named
 - > not only in this world, but also in that to come
- has put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things...

- **This same power links us with Christ in His resurrection life.**

Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

Christ's position in resurrection (verses 20-23) (cont'd)

- **His position now**

- at God's right hand in the heavenlies

- far above...

- > all things under His feet (Hebrews 2:8 "but we see not yet all things put under Him")

- Head over all, to the church

- > In Colossians He is head of the church.

- > Here – to the church – He is head

- » although not yet seen and acknowledged by the world, cf. Heb. 2:8

Paul's first prayer in Ephesians

So for us – believers, members of His body – He is head

- The world has not acknowledged His dominion yet, but all will have to do so
 - (every knee shall bow.....Phil 2:10-11)
- We are not concerned with what the world thinks – He is our head (FACT)
 - We must walk worthily of that (see later sections).
- The body is His fulness; it is linked with Him - as Man (cf Genesis 2:18).