

## “God’s Prayer for His Church”

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

**MAIN POINT:** GOD’S PRAYER FOR HIS CHURCH IS THAT WE KNOW HIM.

### I. Motivation of Prayer (1:15-16)

### II. Substance of Prayer (1:16b-19)

#### A. Hope of His Calling (1:18)

#### B. Riches of His Inheritance (1:18)

#### C. Greatness of His Power (1:19)

“Paul is using a multiplicity of words denoting power to bring out the truth that...there is mighty power in God and it is a power directed towards the betterment of believers.” (Leon Morris)

“When you look at the history of Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection, you are seeing your spiritual biography in him. He died for sin and rose again by God’s power. You were dead in sin but have now been spiritually resurrected in Christ.” (Richard D. Phillips)

“The fruits of [His] power become evident. God’s children learn humility and patience, becoming less and less headstrong and opinionated as we walk in the light...We learn more and more to love, and less and less to be embittered, angry people. We learn to live with sexual and financial purity, less and less driven by sordid self-interest. We learn wise speech, and become more and more able to strengthen others with a timely word. We learn to give money to meet others’ needs, and we experience the generosity of others to us. In all this and more, the power of the living God who raised Christ now infuses the people of Christ.” (David Powlison)

### III. Foundation of Prayer (1:20-23)

#### Application Questions:

- 1) What tends to be the content of your prayers?
- 2) How does knowing that God is always exercising His Sovereign plans and purposes motivate your prayers? What are God’s purposes we should consistently pray to see revealed in the church?
- 3) What does God’s prayer for His church teach us about our need for the ongoing work of the Spirit?
- 4) How can you take the substance of God’s prayer and make it your own this week for yourself, your family, your friends, and our church?