

Dear Church (Part 3)
God Knows Best [Eph. 1:15-23]
Pastor Bill Bowers
SERMON OUTLINE
May 14, 2017

SCRIPTURE EPHESIANS 1:15-23

- Strong faith in the Lord Jesus v. 15
- Love for God's people everywhere v.15

Verse 17 "I pray for you constantly asking God our glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you SPIRITUAL WISDOM and INSIGHT so that you might grow in your knowledge of God."

- SPIRITUAL WISDOM v.17
- KNOWLEDGE OF GOD v.17

WISDOM=ABILITY TO TAKE BIBLICAL STATEMENTS AND APPLY THEM TO PRACTICAL SITUATIONS.

INSIGHT=THE ABILITY TO SEE INTO THE SCRIPTURES SO THAT THEY ARE REVEALED (UNVEILED) TO YOU SO THAT YOU GET GOD'S PERSPECTIVE.

"I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light..." verse 18

- Your calling
- Your glorious inheritance
- Incredible greatness of God's POWER

Verse 17 I pray for an expanded knowledge of God

Verse 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light

Verse 19 "I pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's Power for us who believe him.

Dear Church (Part 3)

God Knows Best [Eph. 1:15-23]

May 14, 2017

HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- The Apostle Paul offers prayers for believers that God would favor them with “spiritual wisdom” and “revelation” or “insight.” How would you describe the gift or blessing Paul prays for believers? Do you believe God has favored you with spiritual wisdom and insight? What do you think is the evidence of these blessings in believers?
- The blessing of spiritual wisdom and insight, Paul prays, is for “growth in your knowledge of God.” Do you think this growth and knowledge in God is something “poured out from above” or it comes from something else? Please explain how you think this knowledge occurs.
- A second blessing in this prayer is that believers would understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for those who believe. How would you describe this power of God? How do you think this power you’ve described works in believers; in you? What might it look like daily?
- Paul describes the power he prays for believers as the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Do you experience this power in your life? Why or why not? Please describe your experiences in as specific detail as you can. What do you think the key to experiencing this power is?
- The implications of this prayer and the inclusion in the supremacy of Christ make it seem that Christians should have authority over many aspects and details of life. Do you find this true? If yes, can you give practical examples from your life? If you think it is not true, can you explain or share why you believe there is a disconnect from what Paul prays and the Christian experiences?
- How is your experience with the teaching from Ephesians three weeks into our series? Are you trying to read the letter as often as you are able? Are you asking God to provide you insight and spiritual wisdom?