

Lesson # 5 - The Prayer of Paul for the Ephesians - the Prayer for Illumination.

Introduction

- A. In His love for us God has provided many ways whereby we may know His will for our daily lives. He is concerned about us.
- B. One way that God has reached out to us is through the prayers recorded in the Bible. These are inspired summaries of the will of God and principles related to implementing His plan and purpose in daily life.
- C. The Apostle Paul had worked with the people in Ephesus for something like three years (Acts 20:31). He knew many of them personally. In this prayer Paul prays for the needs that he knew existed in the lives of the saints at Ephesus. Due to the fact that Paul's prayer was placed in the inspired Scripture is an indication that this is an expression of God's will for every believer.

I. The Basis of Paul's Prayer, Ephesians 1:1-14.

(Paul refers to this basis of his prayer by the "wherefore" in V 15.)

- A. The fact of God's provision, V 3.
- B. The content of God's provision, Vs 4-14.
- C. The purpose of God's provision, Vs 6, 12, 14.

II. The Goal of Paul's Prayer, Ephesians 1:17,18.

- A. That believers may increasingly grow in a knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- 1. It is important for the believer to know God.

John 17:3 --

I Cor. 2:12 --

Ephesians 3:19 --

Philippians 3:10 --

2. It is important for the believer to have the knowledge of God.

Ephesians 4:13 --

Philippians 1:9 --

Colossians 1:9 --

Colossians 3:10 --

II Peter 1:3 --

B. That believers may be enlightened in their hearts regarding God.

Romans 6:17 --

Romans 10:10 --

I Cor. 7:37 --

II Cor. 3:3 --

Ephesians 6:5 --

Ephesians 6:6 --

Hebrews 10:22 --

I Peter 3:4 --

III. The Content of Paul's Prayer, Ephesians 1:18-23.

A. That believers may know the hope of God's calling, V 18.

(All believers have been called alike, it is the commission whereby we are to fulfill our call that differs. When we know and practice this it will bring a transforming hope into our lives.)

1. The fact of God's call.

Romans 8:28,29 --

II Timothy 1:9-11 --

I Peter 2:9 --

2. The responsibility of God's call.

I Corinthians 1:9 -- called to fellowship.

Galatians 5:13 -- called to liberty.

Ephesians 4:1 -- called to live worthy of God.

I Thessalonians 4:7 -- called to be holy.

B. That believers may know the riches of the glory of being God's inheritance, V18.

(The believer, as the inheritance, is valuable and important to God.)

Deuteronomy 4:20 --

Deuteronomy 7:6 --

Deuteronomy 9:26 --

Deuteronomy 14:2 --

Psalm 33:12 --

I Peter 5:3 --

C. That believers may know the greatness of God's power, Vs 19-23.

1. The explanation of this power, V 19.

2. The source of this power, V 20.

3. The illustrations of this power.

Ephesians 1:21 --

Ephesians 3:20 --

Ephesians 6:10 --

Philippians 3:10 --

I Thessalonians 1:5 --

II Peter 1:3 --

IV. The Implications of Paul's Prayer.

- A. The prayer as a definition of the will of God.
- B. The prayer as an example of the relationship of standing and state.
- C. The prayer as an exhortation for aggressive implementation of the will of God.
- D. The prayer as a reminder of the importance of intercession.

Conclusion.

- A. Choose to believe God.
 - 1. You have been called.
 - 2. You are His inheritance.
 - 3. You have His power.
- B. Choose to interpret life from this perspective.
 - 1. Since you are called by God - there is something you can do for Him.
 - 2. Since you are God's inheritance - there is something you can be for Him.
 - 3. Since you are the recipient of God's power - there is something you can receive from Him.