

### **Session 3: Thanksgiving and Prayer: (1:15-23):**

#### **Structure:**

- 1) What does Paul do in Eph. 1:15-16?
  - a)
- 2) What does Paul do in Eph. 1:17-19?
  - a)
- 3) What does Paul do in Eph. 1:20-23?
  - a)

#### **Thankfulness for the Believers (1:15-16):**

- 1) How does Eph. 1:15-23 connect to the passage preceding it? How does Paul want us to understand verses 15-16 in light of what came before?
  - a) Consider his little phrase in Eph. 1:15 – “For this reason”
    - i)
- 2) What Paul was praying about in 1:3-14? How is this significant when considering Eph. 1:15? How does the first section lead into the second?
  - a)
- 3) For what does Paul give thanks? See Eph. 1:15.
  - a) Not just for \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) But for \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What is Paul confident in?
  - a)

#### **Intercessory Prayer (Eph. 1:17-19):**

- 1) Why does Paul pray?
  - a) See Eph. 1:16 and 1:3-14
    - i)
- 2) What is the content of Paul's prayer?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
- 3) What is the purpose of Paul's prayer?
  - a)
- 4) How can we learn to pray from how Paul prays?
  - a)

#### **God's Power Eph. 1:20-23):**

- 1) What does the Apostle's Creed say about Christ's power?
    - a)
  - 2) Where does the phrase “sits at the right hand” come from?
    - a)
- 
1. The faith of the people as an exhibit of God's power (vs15)
    - a.
  2. Since God is powerful, for what does it give Paul confidence to pray? Read Eph. 1:17

- a.
- 3. God's power is already available to us (Eph. 1:19)
  - a. But what does that power look like?
    - i. Consider Is. 55:8-9
      - 1.
    - ii. What happens to Christ and his followers?
      - 1. John the Baptist:
        - a.
      - 2. Christ's disciples:
        - a.
      - 3. Christ himself:
        - a.
    - iii. Consider 2 Corinthians 12:9
      - 1.
- 4. Jesus raised from the dead (Ep. 1:20)
  - a.
- 5. This very power puts all things under Christ as our king (Eph. 5:21-22)
  - a.
- 6. And we are Christ's body! (Eph. 1:23). We are his hands and feet. What power God works through us who are in Jesus!

Link to David Schmitt's sermon on Ephesians 1:15-23

<https://concordiatheology.org/lalp/#/2110/1890/5-5-29/2020-11-22>

### **Take Home:**

I urge you to do the following:

- 1. Consider God's wisdom and power.
- 2. Even though you can't comprehend it, consider how the power that raised Christ from the dead will raise you as well and how God's power is shown in weakness.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for being a powerful God. As we do not understand your ways, we ask that you would grant us wisdom and faith to see your power in Christ on his cross. Strengthen us in this faith. In Jesus' name, amen.