

## Ephesians: Blessed Beyond Belief

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### To Build up the Body

#### Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason  
    Because I have heard of  
        your faith in the Lord Jesus  
        and your love toward all the saints,  
16 I do not cease to give thanks for you,  
  
    remembering you in my prayers,  
17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
    the Father of glory,  
    may give to you a spirit of wisdom  
        and of revelation  
            in the knowledge of him,  
  
18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened,  
  
    that you may know  
        what is the hope to which he has called you,  
        what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,  
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe,  
  
    accordance to the working of his great might  
20 that he worked in Christ  
    when he raised him from the dead  
    and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,  
21 far above  
        all rule and authority  
        and power and dominion,  
        and above every name that is named,  
            not only in this age but also in the one to come.  
22 And he put all things under his feet,  
23 and gave him as head over all things to the church,  
    which is his body,  
        the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- I. Circular letter to those who are “in Christ” 1:1-2
- II. Praise to God: The believer’s position in Christ to the Praise of His Glory 1:3-14
  - A. The Father’s Past Plan: His eternal plan to choose individuals to be blameless and holy, to be adopted as sons—to the praise of the glory of His grace
  - B. The Son’s Present Provision of salvation: redeemed and forgiven, based on the superabounding riches of His grace, having made known the mystery of His will—to subject everything to Christ provide an inheritance for those who believe—to the praise of His glory
  - C. The Spirit’s Present Protection of Future salvation: Sealing those who believe as a pledge of His ownership and their assurance of an inheritance—to the praise of His glory

### III. Thanksgiving and Prayer

#### A. Thanksgiving 1:15-16a

“For this reason”

“I...give thanks”

#### B. Prayer 1:16b-23

##### 1. Content 1:16b-18a

God’s title

Key Request

“spirit of wisdom and revelation”

Basis

“since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened”

Summary:

##### 2. Purpose 1:18b-19

To realize

The hope of His calling

The riches of His inheritance in the saints

The extent of His power on their behalf

##### 3. Creedal confession: Praise to God 1:20-23

The power to raise and seat Christ

To subject all things to Him

To give Him to the Church as Sufficient Head

Summary:

Past: Raised Christ and exalted Him to the highest honor—He calls believer’s to Himself

Present: Christ’s cosmic rule and the privilege and power available to His people

Future: Hope to which believers have been called and His glorious inheritance

Do we pray that for ourselves? For other?

Are we getting to “know” Him better?

How do you work toward growth in intimacy with God?

***A chief object of all prayer is to bring us to God.***<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> P. T. Forsyth, *The Soul of Prayer*, (Regent College Publishing, 1997) p. 16.