

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



2. A Prayer for God's People

(Member's Notes)

Introduction

Have you ever listened to someone else pray and thought, 'I wish I could pray like that!' Prayer is something we learn as we put it into practice. We can also learn by listening to others and reading their prayers. There are two prayers written by the Apostle Paul in his letter to God's people in Ephesus. The first one follows on immediately after he has spoken about the spiritual blessings we receive as our inheritance in Christ. The Apostle Paul prays that all God's people will know the wonderful things Jesus has done for them, so that their lives will be transformed by these truths. Let's look at this prayer now.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

- † The Apostle Paul begins his prayer with thanksgiving. What qualities in the lives of the believers does he thank God for? V15-16
- † What are the two main things Paul prays for the believers in v17-18?
- † In v18 Paul prays that their minds would be open to see the light, then he goes on to give 3 things he wants them to see and understand. What are they? V18, 19

It would be good to read v17-19 in a modern translation so everyone grasps the meaning of these verses.

- † What difference will it make in our lives if we really know and understand these 3 things Paul writes about?
- † How does Paul show us that this power within us is mighty? V19-23
- † Paul closes this section by praising God for who Jesus is. What wonderful truths do we learn about Jesus in v20-23?
- † What have you learnt from the way Paul prayed that could help you in your prayer life? Share.

Conclusion

What we believe makes a difference to the way we live! Paul knew this, and so he taught those he had brought to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, all that God had done for them through Christ. Then he prayed that they would understand these things.

When we truly grasp all that Jesus has done for us, it will change our lives and the way we live. So let's pray for ourselves and others, the way Paul prayed. Not only will God answer our prayer, He will do immeasurably more than we ask or think!! Amen.

(Pray for one another, using Paul's prayer as a guideline.)