

The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 18, 2016

“Alive in Christ: Knowing in Christ”

Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason = *dia* = is a \_\_\_\_\_ word, connecting one thought to another, and literally means:

PAUL’S PRAISE FOR THE EPHESIANS

• He praises them for their \_\_\_\_\_.  
“...the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you.” (Ephesians 1:15b) The

The emphasis here is on true, saving faith, with the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus at the centre.

It’s one thing to accept Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_—to accept what Jesus died for our sins and receive the forgiveness offered to us at the cross. It’s quite another thing to \_\_\_\_\_ one’s life to Him

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your hearts that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

Jesus becomes Saviour when He is \_\_\_\_\_ as Lord.

“For to this end, Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.” (Romans 14:9)

Our awareness, appreciation, and obedience to Jesus as Saviour and Lord can \_\_\_\_\_ over time—when we’re \_\_\_\_\_ to Him those things increase and when we’re unfaithful they \_\_\_\_\_.

**Do you have the faith that knows Jesus as both Saviour and Lord?**

• **He praises them for their \_\_\_\_\_.**  
“...and your love for all the saints.” (Ephesians 1:15c)

Christian love is \_\_\_\_\_; it doesn’t pick and choose which believers it will love.

“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?” (1 John 4:20)

To love a person in the Lord is to love them as \_\_\_\_\_ loves

them—genuinely and \_\_\_\_\_.

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)

Faith and love must be kept in \_\_\_\_\_.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

**Is your faith and love in balance? Is your love visible to others?**

PAUL’S PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS

#1. Paul prays they would know more about \_\_\_\_\_.

“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him...” (Ephesians 1:17)

**know = *epignosis* =**

It carries the idea of \_\_\_\_\_ of knowledge that comes from personal \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul isn’t praying that the Ephesians would be smarter; he’s not praying for them to have an attitude, a strength of determination, or anything else that could be conjured up in their own strength—he’s praying for something that only the \_\_\_\_\_ can give. He’s praying that they’d receive a \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of who God is—that their knowledge of Him would go \_\_\_\_\_.

Scripture teaches is that it’s only through divine \_\_\_\_\_ that we can know God—apart from the \_\_\_\_\_, God is infinitely and eternally beyond our grasp.

“But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

**How well do you know God?**

#2. Paul prays they would know more of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

“I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy

people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.” (Ephesians 1:18)

True hope can only be found in \_\_\_\_\_.

“Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.” (Psalm 33:22)

Hope isn't the same as \_\_\_\_\_ thinking or \_\_\_\_\_.

Optimism is \_\_\_\_\_. It is based on the way we \_\_\_\_\_.

Hope is \_\_\_\_\_. It is based on \_\_\_\_\_ about God.

Optimism is trusting in \_\_\_\_\_ and your own abilities.

Hope is trusting in \_\_\_\_\_ and His abilities.

**hope** = *elpis* = “to hope; to anticipate with pleasure; to welcome; trust; \_\_\_\_\_; and expectation of what is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Hope is the unshakable certainty in the promises of God, based on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.”

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Before we come to Christ, God works in us through His word and Holy Spirit, giving us the \_\_\_\_\_ that when we call out to Him in repentance, we'll be \_\_\_\_\_ and made right with God.

As we live out the Christian life, our hope is in God's promise that He's always \_\_\_\_\_ us, to support and strengthen us and give us everything we need to live a life of \_\_\_\_\_.

Ultimately, our hope centers around the promise that Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ for those who love Him and bring them to Himself.

### How is your hope?

**#3. Paul prays they would know more of God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints...” (Ephesians 1:18)

Paul is talking about so much more here than just \_\_\_\_\_ blessings and \_\_\_\_\_ things—things that are \_\_\_\_\_.

He's also talking about the \_\_\_\_\_ blessings and \_\_\_\_\_ blessings that will stand the test of time and last into eternity.

These spiritual, eternal blessings as God's \_\_\_\_\_ and forgiveness to us; the \_\_\_\_\_ He works in us and in our lives when we believe in, and follow, Him; a new identity and destiny, the family of God; and the benefits of God:

Ultimately, we look towards eternity to find the ultimate fulfilment of this inheritance, we're \_\_\_\_\_ with our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus, our joint heir, for all eternity.

**How has God blessed you? What are you doing with those blessings?**

**#4. Paul prays they would know more of God's \_\_\_\_\_.**

“...and what is the surpassing greatness of his power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the *strength* of his might which he brought about in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and seated Him at his right hand in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 1:19-20)

Paul doesn't pray that the believers would be given more power, but that they'd be given a divine \_\_\_\_\_ of the power they already possessed in Christ.

### FOUR GREEK WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE POWER

**power** = *dunamis* =

**working** = *energeia* = the energizing force of the Holy Spirit that \_\_\_\_\_ believers to live for the Lord

**strength** = *kratos* = \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ and refers to God's \_\_\_\_\_ rule.

**might** = *ischus* =

If we try to meet the challenges of everyday living in our own strength, we have every reason to \_\_\_\_\_ and doubt. However, if we trust in God and His power, we can know His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Is this power working through you?**