



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom and Knowledge

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The setting is a Roman prison (60-62 A.D.) and Paul is addressing the existing Christian church in Ephesus where he was a pastor for several years. While the church in Ephesus had been established for several years, Paul in this letter counters the false teachings that had started to plague the church and additionally provides encouragement and instruction in sound doctrine. The following portion (Ephesians 1:15-19) of the letter is an extended prayer to the fellow believers that he knew and loved.

The Epistle of Paul The Apostle to the Ephesians 1: 15 *For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of 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 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.* (NASB)

The local Ephesian church was known for its faith in Jesus the Christ and for the love that they had for each other and for all Christians. Paul not only knew of this faith and love from what he had heard from others but he knew the people personally; He was their pastor for several years and lived among them, loved them and was thankful to God for their faith and love. The Ephesians were on Paul's prayer list and he wanted the best for them. That 'best' included spiritual wisdom and knowledge of God. Paul also shared that 'best' with other churches including the Colossians.

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, (Col.1:9).

Spiritual wisdom is gained from spiritual truths/knowledge, and spiritual truths are found in God's Word. The Holy Spirit, dwelling in the believer, provides the believer with discerning spiritual wisdom as He grows the believer in spiritual truths/knowledge (1Cor. 2: 9-16).

Paul also prays another 'best' for the Ephesians, *‘that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling’ (v18).*

Because God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world (v4-6), we have 'hope' to spend all eternity with God that does not depend on our goodness but rather on God's grace. God not only calls us to Him but also calls us to serve Him.

Paul also prays that they may know the riches of belonging to the family of God. God will meet their needs (v18). Additionally, Paul prays that they would know the amazing greatness and power of God. Christ had victory over the grave and He provided that same victory by grace through faith (2:8-9) to believers (v19).

For Your Consideration:

- Do you not cease giving thanks - pray, as Paul, for other believers' faith in Christ and their love for the saints?
- Do you pray for growing spiritual wisdom and spiritual knowledge for others and yourself?
- Do you not cease giving praise and glory to God for His greatness, power, mercy and grace?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44