

# A Prayer to Know Christ

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, November 29, 2020; Steve Thiel

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Sermon Theme: Paul prays that we might know the glorious salvation that is ordained by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied to our lives through the work of the Spirit. That salvation requires God to open the eyes of our heart that we might know Him and the power of His glorious salvation!

## **I. The Context of Paul's Prayer – Read Ephesians 1:15-17**

- A. In Ephesians 1:3-14, Paul declares the reality that believers have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ. How do you explain his thought process as he transitions to verses 15-22?
- B. In verse 16, Paul says that he never ceases to give thanks for these believer's faith and their love toward all the saints. How would you evaluate your thought life with regard to thanking God for what He's already done in a believer's life rather than grumbling about what's not yet done?
- C. In general, what do you think it looks like for a person to be growing in the knowledge of God? How is the language of "enlightening the eyes of your heart" helpful?

## **II. The Content of Paul's Prayer – Read Ephesians 1:18-23**

- A. What do you think it means for Paul to pray that we might know what is the hope to which God has called us? What is our calling according to Ephesians 4:1-5? What might the fulfillment of that calling look like when Christ returns and God unites all things in Him?
- B. What do you think it means to know the riches of God's glorious inheritance in the saints? Do you think we are God's inheritance or that God gives us an inheritance? How is Col. 1:9-12 helpful?
- C. Paul's third prayer request is that we might know the immeasurable greatness of God's power. Why is God's power necessary to accomplish the first two prayer requests? In what ways are Christ's resurrection and ascension a demonstration of God's power?
- D. Why does it matter that the church is the fulness of Christ and that it is being moved and mobilized in order to accomplish His good work in the world? In what ways are you a part of that process?

## **III. The Application of Paul's Prayer – Read Hebrews 11:1-3 and 22**

- A. In this season of life, what are some of the reasons why it is difficult to see God's power at work in and through your life? How does Acts 2:23 help you see things from a spiritual perspective?
- B. How do Hebrews 11:1-3 and 2 Timothy 4:5-8 encourage you to embrace the difficulties of this present age, by the power at work within you, while looking forward to Christ's return?