

The Prayer of a Disciplemaker

Ephesians 1:15-20

Introduction

I Paul Expresses His Disciplemaking Heart

- A. Acknowledges the evidence of their conversion
 - 1. Their faith - Col 1:3-5
 - 2. Their love - Gal 5:6
- B. Acknowledges His love for them
 - 1. Through thanksgiving - Phil 1:3; 1 Thess 5:18
 - 2. Through prayer - Rom 1:9; Phil 1:4-5; Co 1:9

II Paul Prays That They Might Know God

- A. He prays for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
 - 1. That they might know God better - Col 1:9
 - a. Superior to human wisdom - Jer 9:23-24
 - b. It is eternal life itself! - Jn 17:3
- B. He prays for enlightened hearts - 2 Cor 4:6; Rom 1:21
 - 1. To know the hope of their calling
 - a. Called through the gospel - 2 Th 2:14
 - b. Called into God's wonderful light - 1 Pet 2:9
 - c. Called to His kingdom and glory:
 - 1. Present experience- 2 Tim 1:9
 - 2. Future expectation- 1 Th 2:12
 - 2. To know the riches of God's inheritance
 - a. What Paul has already told us
 - 1. We were adopted as His sons - Eph 1:5
 - 2. We have obtained an inheritance - Eph 1:11
 - 3. We have received the Holy Spirit - Eph 1:14
 - b. What Paul is going to tell us
 - 1. The riches of God's grace to come - Eph 2:7
 - 2. That we are "fellow heirs" - Eph 2:12-13; 3:7
 - 3. To know His great power
 - a. A power described as:
 - 1. Incomparably great
 - 2. Shown toward us who believe
 - 3. A demonstration of God's mighty strength
 - b. The same power God exerted in:

1. Raising Jesus from the dead! - Acts 2:24

III Paul Reveals the Exaltation Of Christ

- A. God has seated Him at His right hand - Ps 110:1; Col 3:1
 - 1. Above all others - Heb 1:3-4; Eph 3:10; 6:12
 - 2. Above every title given - Phil 2:9-11
- B. God has given Him all authority - Matt 28:18
 - 1. All things are under His feet - 1 PE 3:22
 - 2. He is head of the church - Ro 8:35-39
 - a. His body - Eph 5:23
 - b. The fullness of Christ - Col 2:9-10; Eph 3:19

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Have you ever been around someone who genuinely made you feel loved and appreciated? What impact does that have on you? How about someone who made you feel unwelcome and insignificant? Which person are you most like when it comes to how you treat others?
2. One of Paul's greatest desires was to know God better (Phil 3:8). Take a moment and share one or two of the most significant things you've learned (or are learning) about God recently.
3. God wants us to have the eyes of our heart opened to His great blessings for us in Christ. What kinds of things cloud our spiritual vision? Is there anything in your life right now that is preventing you from "seeing clearly"?
4. In Ephesians 1:19-20, Paul asserts that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in the believer. Why do you think so many Christians are spiritually weak? How can you grow stronger in the Lord this week?
5. Pray for a disciplemaking heart like Paul and for a heart that gladly submits to the reign and rule of your exalted Savior.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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