

EPHESIANS – Session 2.

A Prayer for open eyes for the Church as the Body of Christ

Read Eph. 1. 15-21.

Is there a word, phrase or verse that particularly speaks to you here and you would like to make your own prayer? Which?

What are the 2 characteristics of the Christians in Ephesus? (v.15)

What 2 things does Paul ask for these young Christians? (v.17-18)

What are the three things Paul wants them to know? (v.18-19)

To demonstrate what he means by 'power', what are the 2 events in the life of Christ Paul calls to mind? (v.20)

What has Christ been given authority over? (v.21)

Are there (or have there been) people in your life for whom you always give thanks? Who are they?

If God has done all for the Ephesians that verses 1-14 say, why does Paul pray that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened?

Beginning with verse 20, what is the amazing truth you learn about Christ?

What did you discover from this passage about prayer that could help your own prayer life?

What does this passage reveal about Paul?

Read Eph. 1. 22-23.

The New Testament has a number of images of the church. How many can you name?

One Paul is fond of is 'the body of Christ'. It shows the relationship between Jesus and his people as very close indeed – a form of organic union in which we are now in life and being with him. (Col.3.4)

Paul sometimes pictures Christ as the whole body and the members are within him. (Rom.12..5., I Cor.10.16., 12.27) This is similar to the picture of the Vine and the branches.

At other times Paul handles the image in a slightly different way (as here) presenting Christ as the head of the body (Eph.5.23., Col.1.18., 2.19). Christ as the head implies that all our life and nourishment, direction and management flow from him. We live out of him, from him, through him and unto him.

It also implies a close relationship and interdependency between the members. See, especially, I Cor.12.12-27.

What is your favourite image or picture of the church?

If Jesus is the head of the church (v.22) what does that imply? How many things can you think of? Perhaps I Cor.12. 12-27 will help here.

There are 3 'togethers' in Eph. 1. 15-23. What do they tell us?

Did you have any questions or problems this week? Is so, what?

What did you find most helpful or challenging this week? Share it.