

Paul's Letter to the *EPHESIANS*

CHAPTERS 1, 2, 3: *God's Plan for Everyone Who is In Christ* (CONTINUED)

Benefits of Being "In Christ" (1:3 – 3:21) (continued)

Resources in Christ (1:15-23)

This passage ^{v.15-23} is the first of two prayers ^{Ephesians 3:14-21} by Paul in the book of Ephesians. All Godly men in the Bible were prayer warriors: Moses, David, Elijah, Daniel, Jesus, Paul, etc.

1:15-16 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith ¹ in the Lord Jesus and your love ² for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers ³.

[¹*pistis*: knowledge of, assent to and confidence in divine truths, ²*agape*: benevolent love, ³*proseuche*: sacred prayer to God] "This reason" refers to grace, salvation, and redemption. Love is evidence of a saving faith in a person's life ^{John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:16-5:1}. "Giving thanks" and praying were expressions of Paul's love for the people of Ephesus. ^{v.15-23, Ephesians 6:23-24}

Christians are to love everyone ^{Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39}; first God ^{Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 22:37-38}, then saints ^{Colossians 1:3-4, Philemon 1:4-5, 1 John 5:1}, and then all others ^{Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:32-36}.

1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation ⁴, so that you may know ⁵ him better. [⁴*apokalupsis*: uncover, unveil, ⁵*epignosis*: full understanding, insight, discernment]

"God of our Lord Jesus Christ" is a designation of God, linking the Father and the Son in essential nature as deity ^{John 10:30}.

God is the benefactor of the gift of the Holy Spirit ("the Spirit of wisdom and revelation").

The more a person "knows" God, the closer they are to Him ^{Malachi 3:7-12, James 4:7-10, 2 Peter 1:2-3}.

In addition to the "Spirit of wisdom and revelation", the NT also refers to the Holy Spirit as *the Spirit of: God* ^{Matthew 3:16}, *your Father* ^{Matthew 10:20}, *the Lord* ^{Luke 4:18}, *truth* ^{John 14:15-17}, *Jesus* ^{Acts 16:7}, *holiness* ^{Romans 1:1-4}, *Christ* ^{Romans 8:9}, *faith* ^{2 Corinthians 4:13-14}, *his Son* ^{Galatians 4:6}, *Jesus Christ* ^{Philippians 1:18-19}, *grace* ^{Hebrews 10:28-29}, *glory* ^{1 Peter 4:14}, and *prophecy* ^{Revelation 19:9-10}.

1:18-21 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope ⁶ to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power ⁷ for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty ⁸

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strength⁹, which he exerted in Christ when he raised¹⁰ him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power⁷ and dominion, and every title¹¹ that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

[⁶*elpis*: desire of some good with an expectation of obtaining it, ⁷*dunamis*: inherent power, ⁸*ischys*: strength, power, ⁹*kratos*: denotes the presence and significance of power rather than its exercise, ¹⁰*egeiro*: to awaken, ¹¹*onoma*: specific name] Notice Paul did not pray for the believers to obtain "hope" Romans 5:1-5, Hebrews 3:6,6:19, 1 John 3:1-3, "riches" Ephesians 3:8, Philippians 4:19 and "great power" Acts 1:7-8, but that they "may know" they already possess these qualities.

Only a spiritually enlightened person Job 42:5, 2 Corinthians 4:6 can understand and appreciate the hope and inheritance in Christ, and then live a life in obedience to Him John 14:15, 1 John 5:3.

The words "rule...authority...power...dominion" are Jewish terms for angelic beings Colossians 1:16. God's "mighty" power is far greater than any human or spirit powers. Revelation 19:19-21, 20:7-15

Notice the subtleness of the statement "[God's] glorious inheritance in the saints", which seems to indicate that the church (the "saints") are actually the inheritance of God.

Anyone who "[is] enlightened, ...[tastes] the heavenly gift, ...[shares] in the Holy Spirit, ...[tastes] the goodness of the word of God ...and the powers of the coming age", but then "[falls] away" has no chance "to be brought back to repentance" Hebrews 6:4-6 (i.e., an apostate). This is another way of describing the unforgivable sin. Matthew 12:30-32, Revelation 14:9-11

God's Right Hand is His hand of: power Exodus 15:6,12, Matthew 26:64, delight Psalm 16:11, protection Psalm 17:7, endurance Psalm 18:35, victory Psalm 20:6, righteousness Psalm 48:10, deliverance Psalm 60:5, might Psalm 118:15-16, wisdom/understanding/counsel/knowledge Isaiah 11:2, creation Isaiah 48:13, judgement Habakkuk 2:16, Revelation 5:1, privilege/reward Hebrews 1:3, 10:11-14, dominion 1 Peter 3:21b-22, and comfort Revelation 1:12-18.

1:22-23 And God placed all things (under his feet)¹² and appointed him to be head over everything for the church¹³, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

[¹²*hupotasso*: to order under (lit), ¹³*ekklesia*: all who are called out] God "placed all things under [Christ's] feet" Matthew 22:44 (God's "enemies" will be Jesus' "footstool" Psalm 110:1), indicating Jesus' absolute authority over everything Daniel 7:13-14, Matthew 28:18, 1 Peter 3:21b-22.

The phrase "his body" is a church metaphor 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 5:22-32, Colossians 1:15-18,24.

The Christian comes to "fullness" through Jesus Christ Philippians 1:4-6, Colossians 2:9-10.

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