

# Ephesians Prayers for the Church

## Week 3

These Sessions of Teaching are Focusing on the  
Church in our Present  
Post-Pandemic Times.

God has both Design/Direction for His Church.

**Pastor Watson Suggest the Church Must be Reset to the  
Manufacture's Settings.**

I stated that maybe our Post-Pandemic Dilemmas are related to  
our Pre-Pandemic Practices.

This Calls for Careful Reflection/Examination of the Church  
Collectively/Individually.

- ❖ Where/What Should be the  
Focus/Function of the Church in Times of so  
much Difficulty/Disarray?
- ❖ How can the Church Remain Faithful to  
God in such Faithless Times?
- ❖ How can the Church Engage/Effective in  
Mindful Living in a Mindless Age?

## **These are times when the Church Must have Steady Pre-Occupation with Christ.**

The Church desperately needs to have a Steady Pre-Occupation  
with Jesus Christ, His Will/Way/Word.

Remember these are Predicted Times of 2 Tim. 3:1-9

The Times/Pandemic is not the Church's Biggest  
Problem, we have a Sinful People Problem.

People must be Confronted/Convicted/Converted by the  
Word of God/Spirit of God to Repentance/Faith in  
Christ.

- 1. The Church Must Know What It  
Means to *Believe* in *God*.**
- 2. The Church Must Know What It  
Means to *Belong* to *God*.**
- 3. The Church Must Know What It  
Means to *Bow* to *God*.**

**The Church is Sick and Needs to be Restored  
to Good Health**

- Fidelity in Doctrine
- Holiness in Lifestyle

o Love/Unity in Fellowship

## **This Requires Continual/Constant Fervent Prayer for the Church.**

### **However, what should we be Praying?**

We looked at Colossians 1:9-14

- (1) Lessons about prayer from the *context* (1:3-8).
- (2) Lessons about prayer from the *content* (1:9-14).

The Focus of Paul's Prayer – **Practical Obedience** v. 10 Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit by Increasing/Filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding v.9

The Persistent Aspiration of Paul's Prayer – **Personal Character** – Strengthen with God's Glorious Might to Endure/Patience with joy/thanksgiving, v.11

The Praise of Assurance of Paul's Prayer – v. 12-14

- a. He Delivered His Church 13a
- b. He Translated His Church 13b
- c. He Redeemed His Church 14a
- d. He has Forgiven His Church 14b

Tonight, we look at Ephesians 1:15-23

Another Prayer Paul Prays for the Church

One of the Great Challenges for the Modern/Present Church is  
**Remembering that we SEE with our Ears and not with our EYES.**

2 Corinthians 5:7

[7] for we walk by faith, not by sight.

In an Age of so many visuals, looking/seeing has dominated  
hearing/listening.

In Our Day/Time Seeing has Dominated Saying.

Looking has Dominated Listening.

In many ways we are better **Lookers than Listeners.**

Many say, **“Seeing is Believing”**

**However, what God says is more important/sure than what we SEE.**

We are all now Virtually/Digitally Connected,

**BUT** in a Reality we have become Vitally Divided.

We are more Virtually/Digitally Connected and Yet more Personally  
Divided.

**The lost genuine/authentic Intimacy.**

We are more **Entertained by Our Eyes and Less Informed by Our  
Ears.**

Most of our Cultural/Societal Problems are born in the Womb of Our Sight.

Therefore, whoever gets the most of your Attention will control your  
Affections.

This becomes the Challenge to Embracing Christ.

He is not Truly Embraced by the Eyes but by the Ears. Matthew 7:24

So again, Our Great Challenges as the Post Pandemic Church is  
**Remembering that we SEE with our Ears and not with our EYES.**

1 Peter 1:3–9

Born Again to a Living Hope

- [3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, **he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**
- [4] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
- [5] who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- [6] In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
- [7] so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- [8] **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,**
- [9] obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Life of the True Believer must be More **Audible Listening to God than Visual Perceptions of Man.**

Romans 10:17

- [17] So faith comes from **hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**

What God says is more believable than what we see.

Matthew 24:35

- [35] Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

I thought you were teaching on Prayers for the Church. I am because the Modern/Present Church has forgotten that we SEE with OUR Ears,

We Pray for what we SEE rather than what we HEAR.  
What we Hear from the WORD OF GOD is His Will and much of what we SEE is Our Will/Wishes/Desires.

1 John 5:13–15

That You May Know

[13] I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God,  
**that you may know that you have eternal life.**

[14] And **this is the confidence that we have toward him**, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

[15] And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

James 4:3

[3] You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

The aim/goal in Prayer is to bring our wills in line with the will of God for His Glory and Our Good.

**Paul Prayed that the Church Stand in  
Obedience/Character while Facing Cultural/Demonic  
Opposition.**

**In our Lesson Tonight Paul Prays for the Church to Have the Eyes of their Heart Open to the TRUTH of their Salvation.**

**We Must See with OUR EARS!**

**Before we get to the Prayer, Paul Starts with Praise!**

**PAUL'S DOXOLOGY OF PRAISE FOR  
GOD'S BLESSINGS UPON THE  
CHURCH IN CHRIST  
Ephesians 1:3-14**

→ After Paul's General Greeting/Introduction of Himself in vv. 1-2.

He immediately begins with an outburst of Praise/Celebration to God for His Glorious Work of Salvation (vv 3-14) centered in Jesus Christ Our Lord, before then turning to Fervent Prayer on behalf of the Church (vv 15-23).

- Paul's Doxology of Praise (vv 3-14).
- Paul Prayer the Church (vv 15-23).

Ephesians 1:3–14

**Paul Praising God for Spiritual Blessings in Christ – 202  
words 1 Sentence  
This Praise Must be Heard!**

## **Please Listen to What Our Thrice Holy God has done for His CHURCH!**

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places,

[4] even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.**

In love

[5] **he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

[7] **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,** according to the riches of his grace,

[8] which **he lavished upon us,** in all wisdom and insight [9] making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

[10] as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.**

[11] **In him we have obtained an inheritance,** having been predestined according **to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,**

[12] so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

[13] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,**



[14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

## → **The Need to sing the Doxology in the Church**

Doxology is an expression of Praise to God.

In many of our contemporary churches DOXOLOGY has fallen by the wayside – sadly. In the church I grew up in we used to sing it every week at the beginning of church and after we collected the offering and at the end of the Service.

I have grown to understand there was good reason for it....

- *Doxology*: simply means to give God praise – literally – **to give God the glory for what He has done for us in creating/sustaining/redeeming/rescuing us from sin.**

(Scripture has many doxologies).

- *Also crucial*: Doxology reminds us to whom we are singing our Praises – *not* just any god, but the Christian God – the Triune God – Father/Son/Holy Spirit.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

→ This is **One of the greatest doxologies in Scripture is Eph 1:3-14...**

**Godly Thinking Produces Godly Praise** it is what also  
Motivates/Directs his Prayers (vv. 15-23).

## ***The Blessings of God the Father in our Salvation (Read Ephesians 1:3–6).***

### Spiritual Blessings in Christ

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,  
[4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love  
[5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,  
[6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

### 3 Glorious/Magnificent Truths:

(1) ***He Chose Us v.4*** – *Salvation begins with God. Jn.15-16 Rom. 3:10-11. God in His Love Seeks Sinners Luke 19:10.*

a. *Notice When He chooses us - Before the foundation of the World.*

b. *Notice Where He chooses us to be – In Christ*

c. *Notice Why He Chooses us – to be Holy and without Blame*

- **Primary Reason we are Christians is not Our Response but the Father's Choice.**
- We are Christians because God has 1<sup>st</sup> set His love upon us, so we might then choose Him.

*The Father He took the Initiative.*

*The Father Acted on OUR Behalf.*

- **God's choice of individuals is purely on the Basis of his**

## **Grace.**

*(2) **He Adopted Us v.5** – God Predestined Our Adoption and OUR Conformity to Christ. Predestine means to ordain beforehand. To predetermine. God chooses the People and Determines their Purpose. We get into the family by regeneration/new birth. Adoption is the act of God whereby He gives His Born Ones an Adult Standing in the family. We claim the wealth of our inheritance IMMEDIATELY!*

*(3) **He Accepted Us v.6** – We can't make ourselves Acceptable to God, but He by His Grace makes us Acceptable in Christ. This is an Eternal Position. Which He freely bestowed on us IN the Beloved or Be-GRACED us in the Beloved. Philemon 17-19*

### ***The Blessings of God the Son in our Salvation (Read Ephesians 1:7–12)***

**→ What overwhelms Paul when he thinks of the role of God the Son in our salvation?**

**It may be summarized in two words – ‘redemption’/‘mystery.’**

Ephesians 1:7–12

[7] In him **we have redemption through his blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

[8] which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

[9] **making known to us the mystery of his will**, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ

[10] as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

[11] In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

[12] so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

- (1) ***He Redeemed Us v.7a*** – Redeem means to Purchase/SET Free by paying a Price. Jesus purchased our Salvation and Set us Free (1 Pet. 1:18) Free from the Law (Gal. 5:1)

Redemption, at its heart, means the buying back or freeing of something precious which has been held in captivity/bondage – *by the payment of a price.*

- (2) ***He Forgives Us v.7b*** – Forgive is to carry away. Ps. 103:12, John 1:29 Forgiveness only comes by Christ Substitutionary Death.

- (3) ***He Reveal Us to God v.8-10*** -

- (4) ***He Made Us an Inheritance v.11-12***

## ***The Blessings of God the Spirit in our Salvation*** **(Read Ephesians 1:13–14)**

→ **What overwhelms Paul when he thinks of the role of God the HS in our salvation? 3 words in our text help us answer this question:**

**(1) *Promised HS*; (2) *Seal*; (3) *Deposit*.**

2. ***Seal (v 13).***

→ **This is quite easy to understand, whether it is 1<sup>st</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century...**

- In SD, farmers marked their cattle with a seal – to mark ownership.
- NT: shepherds would do the same thing to their sheep. Slaves were marked by their owners.

- Sealing was also done for *legal documents*. Every prominent family would have a family seal and they would mark important papers by pressing their mark into a mass of wax.

→ **Thus, to be sealed with the HS is to be marked as God's prized possession...**

- One of the great blessings of salvation is that when we believe the gospel and are joined to Jesus Christ and He gives us His Spirit. We aren't just justified and forgiven.
- No, there is more to our salvation than that. The HS comes now to take up residence within us (=covenantal presence). **He applies the benefits of Christ's work to us:**
  - (1) Unites us to Christ; (2) Inhabits us; (3) Empowers us for life;
  - (4) Changes our character from within, bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit;
  - (5) Tells us that we are God's possession, His prized inheritance.

→ **Idea of being God's possession is something we have seen before.**

- V 5: purpose of our election – “adopted as His sons through JX.” Also see v 14 (**Read**).
- *Summary*: This is why we have been chosen – to be God's people/children. And the evidence of that fact is that the HS is given to us – to mark us/seal us. God wants to assure us that we belong to Him. He gives us the spirit of adoption (cf. Gal 4:4-5; Rom 8:17).
- *Implication*: We are secure in Him. We have the assurance that God will keep us until the end. He will protect us and complete the work that He has begun to do.

In vss. 15-23, there is Cause/Content of Prayer

Ephesians 1:15–19

Thanksgiving and Prayer

[15] For this reason, **because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,**

[16] I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

- **It begins with Paul *thanking* God for his readers** (vv 15-16a).

[17] that **the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,** may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

Paul is Praying that the Church **KNOWS GOD BETTER.**

Intimately/Obediently/Lovingly

[18] having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

[19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

→ (a) ***That We May Know the Hope of God's Calling*** (v 18).

→ (b) ***That We May Know the Glory of God's Inheritance*** (v 18).

- **It's important to stress that the inheritance Paul is speaking of is *God's*.**
  - What (=better, who) is that? It is us (=the 'saints').
  - *What, then, is Paul praying?* It is this: **That we will know who we are, as God sees us.**
  - **Paul wants us to know the value God places on us, not because we are worthy but because we have been identified with Christ – 'in Christ.'**
    - We have been chosen in Him.
    - We have died with Him, been raised and exalted with Him (=already, not yet).
    - His righteousness is ours; we are joint-heirs with Him.
  - **In other words, Paul wants them (=us) to appreciate the wonder/glory of what God has done in entering into possession of His people – the immense privilege it is to be among His saints.**
- → (c) ***That we may know and experience God's incredible power for us who believe*** (vv 19-23)

## **Ephesians 1:20–23 The Description of the Power**

### **What kind of *Power* does Paul want us to know? Where has it been displayed?**

[20] that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,  
[21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. [22] And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,  
[23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (ESV)

(1) *The Power Exerted in Christ's Resurrection (Read vv 18-20a).*

(2) *The Power Displayed in Christ's Exaltation (Read vv 19b-22a).*

(3) *The Power Exercised in Christ's Lordship for the Church (Read vv 22-23).*