

Paul's Epistle to the
Ephesians

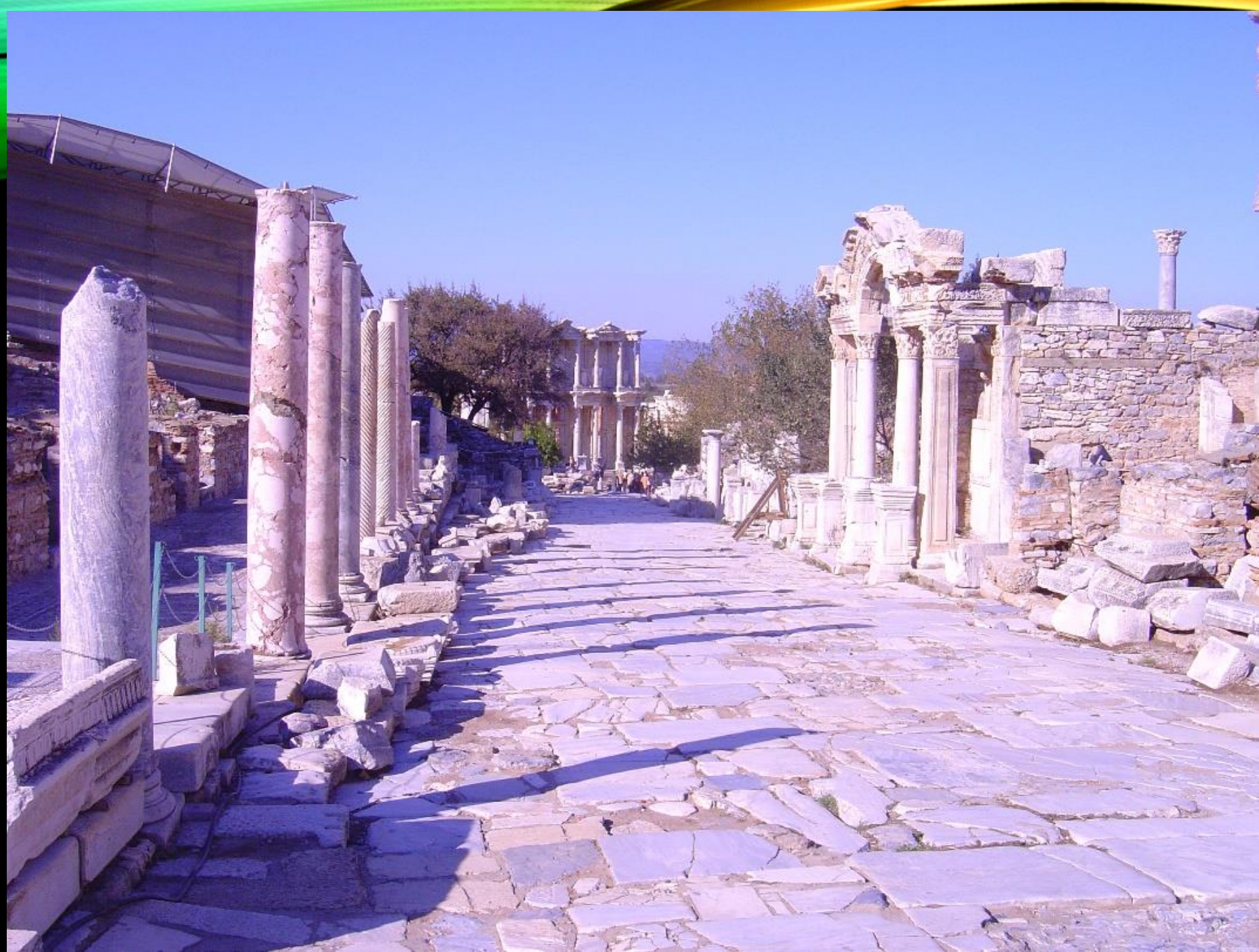
FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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

Ephesians 1:16-17

Class Time

- Prayer Requests
- Ephesus Photos
- Scripture Reading – Ephesians 1:15-23
- Outline & Lesson with Questions







Ephesians 1:15–23 (ESV)

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, 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, 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 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.

Question #1

In v18 Paul prays for the Ephesians (and for all believers), “that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.” Read these verses:

Psalm 33:17–22, Psalm 130:7–8, Jeremiah 17:13, Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:23–25, Hebrews 6:19–20,

then answer these questions. When is this hope realized? What are some of the benefits promised to believers who have this hope? What are the negatives that attend those who do not have it?

Question #1 Scripture

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Question #1 Scripture

Ps 33:17–22

17 The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, 19 that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. 22 Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Question #1 Scripture

Je 17:13

O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.

Question #1 Scripture

Ro 8:23–25

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Heb 6:19–20

19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Question #2

Also in v18, what are “the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints”? See Matthew 19:29; Matthew 25:34; Mark 10:17; Luke 10:25. Is there anyone who is excluded from this inheritance? See 1 Cor 6:9-10, Gal 5:19-21.

Question #2 Scripture

Mt 19:29

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

Question #2 Scripture

Mt 25:34

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

1 Co 6:9–10

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Question #3

In his commentary on Ephesians, Arnold says, “The third and final request is that God will reveal to these believers an awareness of the incomparably great power of God working in their lives. Paul conveys this in an emphatic fashion by using a wide array of power-denoting terms and descriptive words that highlight the vastness of this power.” Read vv 19-20. What are these “power-denoting” terms. To what event does Paul compare “his power toward us who believe”?

Question #3 Scripture

Ephesians 1:19-20

¹⁹ and what is the IMMEASURABLE GREATNESS of his POWER toward us who believe, according to the WORKING of his GREAT MIGHT ²⁰ that he WORKED in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

I The Reason for Paul's Thanksgiving 1:15-16 See Eph 1:13-14

A Their faith in the Lord Jesus v15a

B Their love for all the saints v15b

II The Request for the Ephesian's Enlightenment 1:17-19

A Directed to the Father v17a

1. The God of our Lord
2. The Father of glory – (glorious Father)

B Enacted by the Spirit vv17b-19

1. He brings the knowledge of God v17b
2. He enlightens the eyes of their hearts v18a
3. He makes them to know v18b
 - i. The hope to which he has called them v18c
 - ii. The riches of his glorious inheritance v18d
 - iii. The immeasurable greatness of his power v19

III The Greatness of God's Might 1:19b-23

A Raising Christ from the dead vv19b-20a

B Seating Christ in the heavenly places v20b

C Putting all things under Christ's feet vv 21-22a

D Appointing Christ as head of the church v22

E Filling all things v23