

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians and God's Sovereignty (Eph 1:15-23)

Paul's custom, connect what He praises God for to his prayers (3-14, 15-23)

The word "therefore" refers to the line of thought in the earlier (vv 3-14)

I. Gratitude for God's Sovereign, Intervening Grace in their lives (1:15-16)

"Faith in the Lord Jesus & love for the saints" God's sovereign work in them

Their faith rests securely in Jesus, their love, the outward expression of grace

Paul does not stop thanking God for sovereignly working in them

He devotes himself to "continued prayer" for this great work to progress

II. God's Sovereign, Holy Purposes Accomplished in Salvation (17-19a)

· Paul's prayer is that the Ephesians might have a better knowledge of God

· Particularly Paul prays that we might grow in insight to grasp certain truths

a) Blessing #1: He wants them to know the hope of their calling

b) Blessing #2: The riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints

c) "exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe" (1:19a).

III. God's Sovereignty, Displayed Dramatically in Gospel Power (19b-23)

· Paul mentions the power exerted when Christ was raised from death (1:20)

· Paul describes the power displayed in the exalted Christ (1:21,22)

· Paul declares the power exercised by Christ over everything for the church (1:23)

Though Christ is head over everything, all things above and below

There's a dramatic shift, Paul introduces - "body" meaning the church

Christ is head over all things, but particularly for the sake of the church