

“Lavish Love Inspires Lavish Prayer”

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Book of Ephesians

EMPHASIS: A prayer for the church to understand her union with Jesus – who we are and what we possess.

Introduction

We gather as a local church on a weekly basis because we believe, value, and prioritize certain things like singing, community/fellowship/relationships, the reading and exposition of the Scriptures, and prayer. This list is representative, not exhaustive. These are regular components built into our weekly service. But let’s isolate this component of prayer:

1. What is prayer?
2. What’s the purpose of praying?
3. Why do we value prayer?

Our text this morning isn’t the Apostle Paul’s “*Lectures to my students on prayer.*” Rather, it’s Paul’s response to God, for the church, in light of the lavish grace of the gospel to redeem and adopt sons and daughters into the family of God. This isn’t a sermon to challenge your prayer life, expose any weaknesses in your praying, manipulate you to pray a certain way, or guilt you into praying. This sermon is a simple explanation of how the lavish love and grace of the gospel informs, impacts, and inspires a lavish prayer for the church.

In Ephesians 1:15-23, Paul is simply praying for the church to understand their union in Jesus. He longs for them to grasp the fullness of this reality – who they are and what they possess in Christ.

- I. **The Intent of Prayer** (v15-17a)
 - A) **Why Paul Prays** (v15)
 - B) **When Paul Prays** (v16)
 - C) **Who Paul Prays to** (v17a)
- II. **The Content of Prayer** (v17b-19a)
- III. **The Extent of Prayer** (v19b-23)

Shepherding the Sheep

The prophet’s prayer for his servant and the apostle’s prayer for the church is similar, that our eyes would be open to see with clarity how God is working amidst both realms.

- Read and meditate on Ephesians 1:3-14.
- Pray for yourself, your family, and our church family what Paul prays in Ephesians 1:15-23.