I Am Praying for You 1.22.12

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. Ephesians 1:7–14 ESV

Understanding the Text:

Paul has three objectives in this text.

1. He wants the Ephesians to know he is thankful for & praying for them (v.15-16).
2. He gives them the specifics of what he is praying for them (v.17-20).
3. He gives them another small snapshot of just how great Jesus is (v.21-23).

The Statement of Paul's Prayer (v.15-16):

1. "*I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints" (v.15)*
2. *"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" (v.16)*

Do I have (true) faith in the Lord Jesus today? Do I have true 'love toward all the saints' today?

The Content of Paul's Prayer (v. 17-18a):

"*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory..."*

a. Jesus is divine and and linked to God the Father.

1. "*...May give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him..."*
   a. May the Holy Spirit give you a deeper, experiential knowledge of what you have.
2. "*...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened..."*
   a. We need enlightenment because our hearts are dark and the world is dark.
   b. We can't achieve this enlightenment on our own.

Are the lights on in your heart today? Ask Jesus to enlighten your darkened heart.
Are you praying this kind of prayer for yourself, family, Community Group, Church, sphere of influence?

The Reason for Paul's Prayer (v.18b-19a)

"that you may know..."

a. "*what is the hope to which he has called you,"*
   i. The eternal hope that is ours in Christ. Certainty. Surety.

b. *"what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints..."*
   i. God's inheritance. We are precious to God.

Do I know and am I living like I am part of the inheritance of God? If not, why not?

c. *"and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe"*
   i. God's power is at work within us.

What Can We Know About this Power (v. 19b-20)?

"*according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places..."*

a. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work within us!

i. We have the power to say no to sin and yes to righteousness.
ii. We have the power to get our finances under control.
iii. We have the power to lose the weight, kick the habit, be the husband, etc.

Do I know this is true? Where do I most need this power to be unleashed?

And Just How Awesome is Jesus? (v.21-23)?

1. He is *"far above all rule and authority and power and dominion..."*
   a. Over every ruler they would have known and feared.
2. He is *"and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come."*
   a. Over every name they would have seen exalted.
3. "*And he put all things under his feet"*
   a. Fulfillment of Ps. 8:6. Like a head of government. Also connected to the Body.
4. *"and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."*
   a. Jesus is Lord over all. Including the Church.

Implications:

1. Jesus is Lord over all, forever, and the only God worthy of our worship.
   a. We need to live like it. *What specific areas of repentance does this bring to light?*
2. Jesus is the head of the Church.
   a. You can't love Jesus and hate the church.
   b. By God's grace, we should seek to be active, healthy members of His body.

Works Consulted: *MacArthur Study Bible, New Bible Commentary, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, ESV Study Bible, Paul Bound :The Gospel Unbound, The Bible Reader's Commentary, a Commentary Critical and Expository, The Teacher's Commentary*