

## **(Suggested Subfolder: 04 Prayer & Devotional)**

### **197 "that ye may know ..."**

This Weekly Reflection, our final look for now at some of the truths given to us in Ephesians Chapter 1, has as its focus verses 15-23, another wonderful passage brimming over with joys and blessings, given to us by the Holy Spirit through His servant Paul.

As he writes to the Christian believers in the great city of Ephesus, Paul has heard afresh of "their faith in the Lord Jesus" and of their "love unto all the saints" (v.15), (a reminder in passing of the centrality of faith and love in our Christian lives, and that all Christ-believers are already "saints" in the Lord's sight; to be frank, the bestowal of "sainthood" by any part of the Church on any particular believer is a nonsense).

And Paul's reaction? - I "cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers" (v.16). One part of our own prayer habits is for us to give thanks to the Lord for our fellow Christians - not always easy, but always necessary and pleasing in the Lord's sight.

Then we are given his prayer (v.17 and following)! What exactly is his prayer for these his fellow Christians? First, may "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory" give to them "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" (v.17). We notice here what we came across last time, that the emphasis is on the Father and His glory, through the Lord Jesus Christ. We notice that the thrust of the prayer is about their knowledge of Almighty God. And we notice that this vital knowledge does not come about by human effort or cleverness but as a humbly-received gift from Almighty God.

This theme of their knowing is amplified: "the eyes of their understanding to be enlightened"; that they may "know the hope of His calling", and "the riches of the glory" of God's gracious "inheritance in the saints" (v.18).

The prayer continues. They are to know "the exceeding greatness of God's power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places" (vv.19-20).

These days many Christians are not too strong over this "knowing" of God's power in practice. His power has been demonstrated wonderfully in the raising of the Lord Jesus from death, and is of course available for His saints today (eg.,

John 16.23-24 and many others). It is to be sought and used prayerfully in the furtherance of God's purposes (rather than ours!).

The prayer then soars away regarding God the Father's honouring of His Son. At the Father's right hand, Jesus, right now, is "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (v.21)! What comfort there is in this wonderful truth, as we hear the headlines that are often so grim - and often so God-ignoring, (as we notice again today over the self-congratulations after the ending of the Rosetta spacecraft mission).

Man may delight in ignoring our Creator, but He, God the Father - "hath put all things under His (Jesus') feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church" (v.22). Jesus is the Head, the Lord, the Boss, of the church. and the church is His body, even "the fulness of Him (Christ) that filleth all in all" (v.23). So if ever we are tempted to think that the church is a sideshow in our Christian walk, we need to think again!

So Paul's Holy-Spirit-produced prayer seeks a deepening knowledge of the living God through the Lord Jesus Christ, with all that is implied, and expected, by that knowledge. May we rejoice afresh at the precious truths given to us by Almighty God throughout His Word, not least those we have been considering in Ephesians Chapter 1. These truths are for our knowledge, and that knowledge is for our blessing and for the blessing of others.

(Another aspect of our need to "know" was covered in Weekly Reflection 135 - see [www.fsmins.org](http://www.fsmins.org) / Weekly Reflections by Theme/03 Practical discipleship)

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