

Eph 1:15-23 is Paul's Prayer and Petition to God, for those who believe, that they would know the truths of God (The Hope of God's Calling, v18b; The Riches of our Inheritance, 18c and The Immeasurable Power of God, v19) and Christ (Christ Sits at God's Right Hand, v20; Christ Holds the Place of Ultimate Power, v21; and Christ Rules over all for the Benefit of the Church, vv22-23).by the working of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, respond in hope and joy during difficult times. This prayer shows the importance of knowledge in that faith and love are incomplete without it because our sanctification is dependant upon it.

- a) Paul begins by thanking God for the Ephesians love and faith and then asks that they be given "a [S]pirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of [their] hearts enlightened, that [they] may know..." If all true knowledge is from God, what hope and encouragement should this give us in a world that sees the cross as foolishness? What encouragement does this give us when we do not fully understand the events that surround us?
- b) In the previous election cycle, many argued for various positions. What were your arguments and what were they based upon? Were they based upon a knowledge you had gathered or on knowledge of God revealed by God through His Word and Spirit? What is the basis for your knowledge today and what can you do to make it a God-centered knowledge?
- c) The 3 truths of God found in this prayer remind us that God is ever-present and active in our past (calling), future (inheritance), and present lives (Power). In the hardships of this world, does your prayer life reflect this truth as realistic or idealistic? That is, do you pray in a wishful manner or with the conviction that God's resolve will win out – regardless of whether or not we like it? Read James 4:1-10, 13-17. Does this attitude of God's Sovereignty and prayer life reflect your own?
- d) The 3 truths of Christ found in this prayer remind us that Christ rules the universe for the benefit of His Church, of which He is the Head. What is the value of the Church in your life? Do you see the Church as the body of Christ, that is as God-centered, or do you see the Church as a human institution- that is, Man-centered? How do you (or do not) reflect in your daily life the importance Christ has deemed the Church to have?
- e) Connected to the above question, read 1Thess 2:13-16 and Titus 3:1-11. With all of the difficulty in the Church today, what is the answer? Is the answer division and abandonment of Christ's body, or a greater knowledge of how that body should function through comprehension of the Word?