

Thanksgiving and Prayer - Ephesians 1:15-23

Topics:

Authority, Body, Church, Creation, Faith, God, Heaven, Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, Love, Power, Prayer, Thankfulness

Open It Questions

1. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving Day?

2. For what do you thank God on a daily basis?

3. How do you show that you are thankful for those around you?

Explore It Questions

4. What motivated Paul to pray for the Ephesians? (1:15-16)

5. What did Paul ask God to give to the Ephesian Christians? (1:17)

6. What is the purpose of having wisdom and revelation? (1:17)

7. Why did Paul ask that the Ephesians' hearts would continue to be enlightened? (1:18)

8. What kind of help is available to all Christians? (1:19-20)

9. How is God's power at work in all creation? (1:21)

10. How does God's power reach across time? (1:21)

11. What did God place under Christ's control? (1:22)

12. What appointment did God give Christ? (1:22)

13. What is the church's relationship to Christ? (1:22-23)

Get It Questions

14. How did Paul support the Ephesian Christians?

15. How can you encourage growth in other Christians?

16. The Ephesians showed faith in Christ and love for one another; what qualities distinguish your Christian walk?

17. How do you know that Christ's power is sufficient for your life?

18. How does the knowledge of God's authority and control make you secure?

19. When did you last express a prayer of thanks for other saints?

Apply It Questions

20. Since God's power is available to you, what do you need to do to take hold of it this week?

21. What people in need could you remember in your prayers this week?

Adult Questions for LESSON Maker.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. David L. Roberson, Pastor
23455 W. Nine Mile Road
Southfield, Michigan

Prayer Requests



Sick
Bereaved
All New Hope Members
Pastor and First Lady
Church Officers
Our State Leaders
Our National Leaders
World Leaders
All People of the World

LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayers”

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Southfield, Michigan

Facilitators:

Dr. David L. Roberson, PASTOR

Rev. Valerie Crump, MAPT/CF/CBC

Special Assistant to the Pastor



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Topics

- Authority
- Body
- Church
- Creation
- Faith
- God
- Heaven
- Holy Spirit
- Jesus Christ
- Love
- Power
- Prayer
- Thankfulness



Ephesians 1:15-23
“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Open It
Questions

A photograph of a bright sun setting or rising over the ocean, with the sun's shape appearing as a heart. The sun is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image, and its light reflects on the water below. The background is a gradient of warm colors, from yellow to orange.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Open It Questions

1. How do you celebrate Thanksgiving Day?



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Open It Questions

2. For what do you thank God on a daily basis?



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Open It Questions

3. How do you show that you are thankful for those around you?



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 1:15-23



Ephesians 1:15-23
“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Introduction

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing heart shape, positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, and the sun's light reflects on the dark water below, creating a shimmering path. The entire image is framed by a thin black border.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Introduction

As verses 3-14 are one long sentence in the Greek, so are verses 15-23.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Introduction



Verses 3-14 are an extended eulogy.

Verses 15-23 are an extended thanksgiving:

Verses 15-16 are the thanksgiving proper

Verses 17-19 are an intercessory prayer

Verses 20-23 are a confession of praise

for God's power.



Ephesians 1:15-23
“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Explore It
Questions

A photograph of a heart-shaped sun setting over the ocean, with the sun's reflection on the water. The sun is a bright, glowing heart shape, and the water is dark with a shimmering reflection of the sun.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Paul’s Prayer

4. What motivated Paul to
pray for the Ephesians?
(1:15-16)

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing heart shape, positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, and the sun's light reflects on the water's surface, creating a shimmering path of light. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Paul’s Prayer

¹⁵“Therefore I also, after I heard of **your faith** in the Lord Jesus and **your love** for all the saints,”

¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:...” [1:15-16 NKJV]



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Paul’s Petition

5. What did Paul ask God to give to the Ephesian Christians? ([1:17](#))

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Paul’s Petition

“...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you **the spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of Him,” (1:17)

A photograph of a heart-shaped sun setting over the ocean, with the sun's reflection on the water.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Purpose of Wisdom and Revelation

6. What is the purpose of having wisdom and revelation? ([1:17](#))



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Purpose of Wisdom and Revelation

“...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in **the knowledge of Him**”
(1:17)



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Paul’s Request

7. Why did Paul ask that the Ephesians’ hearts would continue to be enlightened?
([1:18](#))



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Paul’s Request

“...the eyes of your understanding [your heart] being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” (1:18)



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Help for all Christians

8. What kind of help is available to all Christians? ([1:19-20](#))



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Help for all Christians

¹⁹“...and what *is* the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power.”

²⁰“...**which He worked in Christ when He raised Him** from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*” (1:19-20 NKJV)



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

God’s Power and Creation

9. How is God’s power at work
in all creation? ([1:21](#))

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Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

God’s Power and Creation

“...far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come” (1:21).

A photograph of a bright sun setting or rising over the ocean, with the sun's shape appearing as a heart. The sun is a glowing yellow-orange heart shape, and its light reflects on the dark water below. The sky is a soft, hazy orange.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

God’s Power Across Time

10. How does God’s power reach across time? ([1:21](#))

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Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

God’s Power Across Time

“...far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, **not only in this age but also in that which is to come**”
(1:21).

A photograph of a bright sun setting or rising over the ocean, with the sun's shape forming a heart. The sun is a glowing white-yellow heart, and its light reflects on the dark blue water below. The sky is a soft orange and yellow.

Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Christ’s Control

11. What did God place under
Christ’s control? ([1:22](#))



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Christ’s Control

“And He [God the Father] **put**
all *things* under His [the Son’s] feet, and
gave Him [the Son] *to be* head over
all *things* to the church,” (1:22).



Ephesians 1:15-23
“Thanksgiving and Prayer”
Christ’s Appointment

12. What appointment did God give Christ? ([1:22](#))

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Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

Christ’s Appointment

“And He [God the Father] put all *things* under His [the Son’s] feet and gave Him [the Son] *to be head over all things to the church,*”
(1:22).



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

The Church’s Relationship to Christ

13. What is the church’s relationship to Christ? ([1:22-23](#))



Ephesians 1:15-23

“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

The Church’s Relationship to Christ

²²“And He [God the Father] put all *things* under His [the Son’s] feet, and gave Him [the Son] to be head over all *things* to the church,”

²³“...which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”



Ephesians 1:15-23
“Thanksgiving and Prayer”

**Get It and
Apply It
Questions**

(See Handout)



NEXT LESSON

“Made Alive With Christ”

Read: Ephesians 2:1-10