

Ephesians 1:15-23



The text – Ephesians 1: 15-23

1. Read Ephesians 1:15-23. The passage commences with the words, “for this reason” or “therefore”. For what reason does Paul pray the words of 1:15-23?
2. What is the relationship between faith and hope in 1:16?
3. In 1:17-18 Paul prays that the members of the church will be granted “wisdom” and “revelation”, and that the eyes of their hearts will “be enlightened”. Discuss these three terms. How are they related? What do they mean?
4. What does Paul want the believers to know according to 1:17-18?
5. What is power? How is power most clearly understood according to 1:19-23?
6. What does Paul mean by “all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked” in 1:21?
7. What is the relationship of Christ and the church in 1:22-23? Particularly discuss 1:23 and the meaning of the words “fullness of him”. How is the church the fullness of Christ?

The Scriptures – 1 Ephesians 1: 15-23 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. There is a close relationship between Ephesians and Colossians, another of the prison letters of Paul. Read Paul’s prayer in Colossians 1:9-14. Compare and contrast the two prayers.
9. There are echoes of both Psalm 8 and Psalm 110 in the prayer of Ephesians 1:15-23. Read these two psalms and discuss their relationship with the words of Ephesians.
10. Paul’s teaching about “rule and authority, power and dominion” is really important throughout Ephesians. Discuss what you learn about these realities from the following portions of Ephesians – 2:1-2, 3:8-11 and 6:12.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Ephesians 1: 15-23 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. This is a beautiful prayer! Discuss how you pray. Do you find it easy or difficult? What are some practical ways in which we can help each other to pray?
12. Do you think you know God deeply? How can we help you to know God more clearly?
13. How has this portion of Scripture challenged you? What will you do about it?