

THE PRAYERS OF PAUL

WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

This week we will be looking at Paul's prayers for the Ephesian church in Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21. As you study this week, examine your own prayers and determine how you might incorporate the prayers of Paul into your prayers.

Observation – What does the text say?

1. What prompts Paul's prayer for the Ephesians in 1:15?
2. In Ephesians 1:16 what does Paul say he does not do?
3. In Ephesians 1:17-19 what 5 things does Paul ask on behalf of the Ephesians?
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)
 - (5)
4. In Ephesians 3:14, Paul says "For this reason..." What is the reason(s)? (Hint: read chapter 2.)
5. In Ephesians 3:16-19, what 4 things does Paul ask God to grant the Ephesians?
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)

Interpretation – What does the text mean?

1. Each of our Ephesian passages contain the word "power" several times. Look up the Strong's references below and explain the differences between them:
 - a. G1411 (from 1:19, 3:16 and 20)
 - b. G2904 (and 2479, depending on the Bible version you use) (from 1:19)

- c. G1849 (from 1:21)
2. Related to Ephesians 1:15, look up the following verses and note what love proves or provides evidence of:
 - a. John 13:34,35
 - b. 1 John 4:16-18
 - c. 1 John 4:20
 - d. 1 John 5:1

 3. Related to Ephesians 1:17, look up the following verses and note what they say about wisdom:
 - a. James 1:5
 - b. James 3:13
 - c. James 3:17

 4. In Ephesians 3:17 why would it be important for the Ephesians (and us!) to be rooted and grounded in love? Reference Romans 5:5, 8, 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 8:1, 13:2; Galatians 5:22; and Ephesians 4:2, 5:2.

Application – How should this change me?

1. When is the last time that you prayed for your own or someone else's spiritual growth? What prompted that prayer? Have you seen God's answer?

2. After looking up the verses under Interpretation #2 above, evaluate the quality or quantity of love that is in you. Is your love growing? Does it evidence saving faith? Would anyone be prompted to give thanks for the love that you exhibit for all the saints? How might you improve in that area?