

L O V E

l n c o r r u p t i b l e

Ephesians 1:15-23

Introduction:

This week's passage, similar to the one we looked at last week, is one long sentence (169 words) all flowing out of one thought. Paul focuses on the Ephesian church's response to the gospel. Their response to the gospel meant they had faith in the Lord and love for one another. This launched Paul into a prayer we all need prayed for ourselves, and should be praying for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

We can and should pray for our Christian friends and family. The problem many of us face is not exactly that we pray the "wrong" things, but that we pray "lesser" things than what God really has in store for us. Paul prays that these believers would be able to know God better and that knowledge would focus primarily on how powerfully God has worked in Jesus.

Larry Crabb wrote in *Finding God*,

God, I don't know how to come to you. I need to know you, to sense your presence, to feel your love, more than anything else. But I don't know what to do. Every path I follow leads back to me. I must find the way to you. I know you are all I have. But I don't know you well enough for you to be all I need.

Please let me find you.

That is a powerful plea based on the exact hope Paul is pointing us to in our passage this week. We are looking for hope, worth, and power in so many places, yet we forget that the only place to look for them is God. We shouldn't primarily pray to get things from God, but to get to know him. How do we know God? It is not through a set of habits, a degree, or a feeling. God makes himself known through Jesus whom he has set above everything in creation. It is his hope, inheritance, and power that gives us a sure foundation for today and the future.

This Week's:

- Scripture Passage: [Ephesians 1:15-23](#)
- RightNow Media Video: [Session 2](#)

RightNow Media Video Recap:

1) Do you ever feel like there should be more going on in your spiritual life?

2) How is "the hope to which he has called you" different from hoping that your team wins the big game or hoping you get a raise?

Bible Study Questions:

3) List in order the actions that have happened or are happening in verses 15 and 16.

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- 4) Using your own words, summarize what Paul is praying for the church in verses 17-19.

- 5) How do verses 20-23 illustrate for us that God has “powerfully worked in Christ” for believers?

- 6) What things do you run to for security both for now and the future?

- 7) Paul goes into detail about how God has exalted Jesus. How is the power of God that we receive through Jesus a more secure current and future foundation than anything else this world has to offer?

Group Application Questions:

- 8) Hope comes from having the Spirit of wisdom, revelation from the knowledge of God, and enlightened eyes of our hearts. How does / can your small group help one another grow in the knowledge of the hope to which we have been called in Christ?

- 9) Paul prays for his Christian brothers and sisters and he encourages them through sharing the specifics of his prayer for them. When you pray for Christian friends and family members, what kind of things do you tend to pray about?

Prayer:

- This text is a prayer. Let’s pray it!
- Pray:
 - That God would give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to know him.
 - That God would give enlightenment to the eyes of our hearts.
 - That we would know the hope of his calling.
 - That we would know the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints.
 - That we would know the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe.