

Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

Study 6: Your most important prayer (Part 1)

READ Ephesians 1:15-18 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

What is your greatest need?

In this prayer of thanksgiving and intercession, Paul expresses gratitude to God upon hearing of the spiritual vitality of the readers. This leads him to pray intensively that the Spirit will reveal to them their hope and their great value to God, and especially that they will gain an expanded awareness of the extraordinary and unsurpassed power of God manifested on their behalf. Paul's prayer acts as a model of prayer for ourselves and others as we consider what is most important in the Christian life.

Main lesson: Our greatest need as Christians is for us to have a heart that is forever striving to increasingly know God and all we have in Christ

Questions:

1. A. What does Paul specifically give thanks to the Lord for in his readers (v. 15) and what does he mean?

B. Are you thankful to God for fellow believers and have you expressed this to them lately?
2. A. A. W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." What do you think Tozer meant by this statement?

B. Read Phil 3:8-11. How does Paul share in Tozer's sentiment?

3. From vv. 17-18, what role do you think the Holy Spirit plays in our ability to know God? Why might we need illumination? See Luke 24:31, 45; Psalm 119:18.
4. Someone says, "Knowing God sounds like a difficult process. Why can't it be easier?". What would your response be? Consider the role the Holy Spirit plays and the role we play.
5. Can we know God rightly apart from understanding sound doctrine? Can we know doctrine without knowing God? If so, what's the difference?
6. What practical difference would it make if we understood "the hope to which he has called us" and the "riches of his glorious inheritance" (v. 18)?
7. How might this lesson impact the way you pray, what you pray, and for whom you pray?
8. Will you commit to praying through this prayer this week?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God our intimate Father and glorious Lord who holds all resources in Himself
Thank: the Lord for the faith and love you see expressed in believers at HBC
Pray: that you would have a heart that knows God more deeply as you read the Word