|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | SUMMARY: Many of Paul’s letters were written to Churches with clear and obvious problems. Some faced theological challenges, while others were failing to live out their faith. From what we read in the letter to the Ephesian church, it seems like they faced neither. As Paul points out in our section today, he had heard about and was deeply encouraged by their faith and love.  Despite this encouragement, Paul proceeds to pray for them, asking that God might give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they might know him better.  Having just poured out some of the densest theological passages in all of scripture, it’s a fairly reasonable thing to pray. Paul doesn’t just want these people to hear these words, he wants them to understand them, he wants them to sink down into their hearts.  Having prayed that they may know God better, he then asks that they might feel and live in his power. This power is not simply some abstract idea, it’s the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead and it’s the same power that now seats him as Lord over all creation. In this power, Jesus rules over everything, both seen and unseen.  Finally, Paul prays that they might understand the role and place of the church. With Jesus ruling and reigning he is the head, leading and guiding. The church therefore is the body, carrying out his will in all things as Jesus fulfills all things in every way. (1:23)  This is a prayer for an ancient church in a different time and different place, yet the words still ring true for us today. We too should pray for a deeper understanding of God, his power and our purpose. We should pray like this! |  Ephesians 1:15-23 |  | |  | | --- | | Faith, Love & Prayer  1. Do you think Paul worries about the churches that he planted and then left? Why or why not? 2. What do you think Paul means by “love for all God’s people” in v.15? 3. Why does Paul constantly break out into prayer whenever he writes to a church? 4. Do you or we as a church pray like Paul; expectantly, intentionally and selflessly? Why or why not? 5. How do we know God better? (v.17) 6. What is the purpose of knowing God better? (v.18) 7. How should knowing that the power of God is behind  us, shape what we do? (v.19) 8. Is this power something that we see and feel? Why or why not? 9. In a world where people and groups constantly struggle for power, what does v.19-20 say about how we should understand it? 10. What does ‘for the church’ in v.22 mean? 11. How does the image of the body describe for us the purpose of the church? (v.23) 12. What does it mean when it says that the church is the fullness of Jesus and fills everything in every way? | |