

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



2. Paul's Prayers for God's People

Introduction

The book of Ephesians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to those he had led to Christ in the city of Ephesus, to tell them of God's eternal purpose for His church, and to encourage them to grow to maturity. He begins by listing the blessings we have received as an inheritance in Christ, and then goes on to pray that they may fully understand these things.

Often when we pray, we ask God to bless us. And it is not wrong to pray this. However when we look at the way Paul prayed, it makes us realize many of our prayers are shallow and we have a lot to learn about prayer!

A. Paul's First Prayer Ephesians 1:15-23

- † What are the main things that Paul prays for in verses 17 and 18?
- † Why does Paul pray for these things? What does he want them to know and understand?
- † What **difference** will it make in our day to day lives (our real lives) when we do understand these things Paul is praying for? Think carefully and discuss.
- † Share a phrase or verse that stands out to you. Why is it meaningful to you?

B. Paul's Second Prayer Ephesians 3:14-19

- † What are the main things that Paul prays for in verses 16 to 19?
- † Why does Paul pray for these things? What does he want them to know and understand?
- † What difference will it make to our day to day lives (our real lives) when we do understand these things Paul is praying for?

Conclusion

What we believe makes a difference to the way we live! Paul knew this, and so he taught those he had led to the Lord about all God had done for them in Christ in great depth. Then he prayed that they would understand these things. When we truly grasp all that Jesus has done for us, it will change our lives and the way we live. So let's pray for ourselves and others, the way Paul prayed. Not only will God answer our prayer, He will do immeasurably more than we ask or think!! Amen.

(Pray for one another, using Paul's prayer as a guideline.)