

SERMON NOTES

National Presbyterian Church – August 27, 2017

Ephesians 1: 15-20

Since I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to *give thanks for you* as I remember you in my **prayers**.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a *spirit of wisdom and revelation* as you *come to know him*, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know

what is *the hope* to which he has called you,

what are *the riches* of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and

what is *the immeasurable greatness of his power for us* who believe:

[the same great power] God put to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead.

Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory,

God may grant *that you may be strengthened* in your inner being with power through his Spirit,

and that *Christ may dwell in your hearts* through faith, as you are *being rooted and grounded in love*.

I pray that you may have the *power to comprehend*, with all the saints,

what is the breadth and length and height and depth – yes, to know *the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge*, so that you may be *filled with all the fullness of God*.

Ephesians 6: 10-11, 18-19; 3:13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. . .

[Empowered and inspired] by the Spirit, **pray** at all kinds of times and in every kind of prayer and prayer request. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in prayer requests *for all God's people*.

Pray also *for me*, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. **Pray** that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

I pray . . . that you may *not lose heart* over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

Paul's Powerful Prayer Principles in Ephesians

There is a personal God, who longs to hear us and wants us to enter a relationship with him – in which we chat! (*Do you have such a relationship with God?*)

1. Expressing our thanks constantly to God in prayer (*Do you?*)
2. Asking that our relationship with God, and the relationship of others with God, constantly grows deeper (*Do you ask this?*)
3. Asking for the resources and power we need to defeat evil wherever we can: in ourselves and the world (*Do you ask this?*)

