

I'm Thankful, So I'm Prayerful

Ephesians 1:15-20

It had been about four years since Paul ministered in Ephesus, and he was now far away in prison. But he had received information about the Ephesians from letters as well as through personal reports from friends: ¹⁵*For this reason, because I have heard [about you]...* The reports were encouraging. Of course, there were also some points of concern, and he would address these later in the epistle; but he begins on a positive note. There are two things Paul tells the Ephesians that I as your outgoing pastor also want to communicate to you:

1. I'm thankful for you! Ephesians 1:15-16

- What does being thankful for other's *"faith in the Lord Jesus"* look like?
- Can you share an example from your own life?
- What does it mean to be thankful for other's *"love toward all the saints."*
- Can you share an example from your own life or that of others you've observed?

2. I'm praying for you! Ephesians 1:17-20

- What is the connection between thankfulness and prayerfulness?

Paul's prayer for Ephesians can be summarized in three statements:

a. Know your Savior, v. 17.

- What does this mean and how can you put it into practice?

b. Know your riches, v. 18.

- What is "the hope of his calling?"
- What is meant by *"the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints?"*.
- Apply both of these phrases to your life personally.

c. Know your power, v. 19.

- What is the practical outworking of divine power? Consider Ephesians 3:20 and Galatians 5:16.
- If you believe you have the very power available that raised up Christ from the grave, how should it affect your daily walk?

Final word

- What is the significance of Colossians 3:1-3 for appropriating Paul's three petitions?