

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

That You May Know

Introduction:

1. "The best way to keep a prisoner from escaping is to make sure he never knows he is in prison." – Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881)
2. Jesus said, "you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free"
3. We see a prayer for God's people that they their eyes would be opened...
...to know the truth... and to know God.

–Bill Turner 12/2026

1. FOR YOU TO HAVE SPIRITUAL WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING

A. SPIRITUAL WISDOM

1. Cicero defined wisdom as the knowledge of things both human and divine.
 - a) Wisdom deals with the True Realities of Life & Death, God & man, Time & Eternity.
 - b) Wisdom allows us to see beyond the apparent to that which is real.
 Beyond the Physical to that which is Spiritual.
 Beyond the Temporary to that which is Eternal.
2. True Wisdom is from God and leads us back to God if we follow it
 - a) God wants us to be wise... with the wisdom from above... Spiritual wisdom
 - b) He said if you lack wisdom then ask Him and He will give it to you (Js. 1:5)
 - c) Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened
3. The Fear of the Lord is the Key to entering the treasury of Wisdom (Is 33:6)

B. SPIRITUAL WISDOM OPENS THE EYES OF OUR UNDERSTANDING...

1. Elijah and his servant were surrounded by an army of soldiers that were circling the town... the servant didn't know what to do...
 - a) Elijah said, Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see... (2 Kings 6:15-18)
2. PAUL'S Eyes were blinded and then opened by Jesus so he could see!
3. But what is the purpose of Spiritual Wisdom and understanding?
–It is TO KNOW GOD! —To Know God is to be Wise! (Colossians 2:2-3)

2. FOR YOU TO KNOW GOD

A. MANY HAVE A WRONG VIEW OF GOD

1. Some see God as a tyrant who is eager to punish people
2. Others See God as a Great-Grandfather who ignores our sins and just wants everyone to have a good time
3. Others think of God as an impersonal life-force that energizes the universe and keeps things running

4. But a wrong view of God is actually Idolatry...It is believing a lie about God and elevating that as more important than God Himself.
5. And Some compartmentalize God in intellectual or theological terms...
—but they do not know God personally.

a) “A virtuous man may be ignorant, but ignorance is not a virtue. It would be a strange God who could be loved better by being known less. Love of God is not the same thing as knowledge of God; love of God is immeasurably more important than knowledge of God; but if a man loves God knowing a little about Him, he should love God more from knowing more about Him: for every new thing known about God is a new reason for loving Him.” (Frank Sheed)

B. GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

1. The Bible says: God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6)
2. God said: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Ps. 46:10)

3. FOR YOU TO KNOW YOUR TRUE HOPE

A. SO MANY PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT HOPE

1. They say that Hope is the last defense...the last thing to go...
because without hope people give up.
2. They want to have hope and Happiness—but don’t know where to find it
So they live lives of quiet desperation...
3. But God Never Wanted us to live Without Hope...
He wanted us to find our hope in Him!

B. WHEN WE FIND GOD WE FIND OUR TRUE HOPE

1. If you seek you will find... (**Jeremiah 29:11-13**)
2. **We Find God We Find Eternal Life!**
 - a) Jesus said: “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3)

C. THIS IS OUR HOPE! (Titus 1:2, 3:7)

1. The Hope of the Resurrection
2. The Hope of Eternal Life
3. The Hope of Salvation
4. The Hope in the Promises of God
5. The Hope of an Eternal Inheritance
6. The Hope of Glory (**Colossians 1:26–27**)
7. Hope made stronger through trials and tribulation (**Rom 5:3-4**)
8. The Hope We Are to Share With Others (**1 Peter 3:15**)

4. FOR YOU TO KNOW THE RICHES OF YOUR INHERITANCE

A. AN ETERNAL INHERITANCE

1. An inheritance is not earned... it is a gift that is passed down
2. In this case it is an inheritance from our Father in heaven to His children
3. The Bible Talks About How We Are Born Again to become Children of God
4. How We Are Now Heirs of God (Gal 3:29; 4:7; Titus 3:7)
5. How We Receive an Inheritance by Being in the Family of God
6. This is What Paul was sent to tell us about! (Acts 26:18)

B. AN INHERITANCE RESERVED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU

1. (1 Peter 1:3–4; Colossians 1:12)
2. A mystery that the prophets and even angels didn't know (1 Peter 1:10–12)

5. FOR YOU TO KNOW THE POWER OF GOD

A. THE POWER OF GOD IS BEYOND COMPREHENSION (v.19-20)

1. The Same Power that spoke the universe into existence
2. The Power of God over nature, over disease, over death
3. The Power to Give Life! –The Power to make all things possible!

B. BUT HOW IS THE POWER OF GOD AVAILABLE TO US TODAY?

1. Paul is not praying for God's power to be given to Christians...
 - a) it has already been made available in our salvation!
2. His prayer is for us to realize this supernatural power which God supplies every Christian and to use this power for faithful living! (Eph 3:16)

> Do you need strength to forgive someone? overcome temptation? fear? –to do what is right?

- Notice this power in action (Eph 2:1-6)
- Notice the greatness this power (Eph 3:20)
- Notice how we are equipped by this power (Eph 6:10-11)

C. THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU!

1. To Have Spiritual Wisdom & Understanding
2. To Know God
3. To Know the Riches of Your Inheritance
4. To Know the Power of God

CONCLUSION:

1. But this inheritance & power are only available to Christians (Rom 8:11)
2. Have you been made alive in Christ? (Colossians 2:12-13)
3. If You're Already a Christian—you have access to this power today!