

For Further Prayer, Growth, Discussion:

**Who do you thank God for?** Encourage them by telling them!

**How do vs. 15, 16** sound like Luke 18:1, and 1 Thessalonians 5:15-17?

**Remember the invitation to Scrooge by the Ghost of Christmas Present** in *A Christmas Carol*? “Come in, -- come in! and know me better, man! . . . Look upon me! You have never seen the like of me before!” **GOD invites us to come, to know Him better!** What keeps you from taking Him up on this offer?

**See what these passages say about** the importance of, and blessings from, knowing God:

- John 8:29-32; 17:1-3
- Isaiah 26:3, 4; 40:9-10
- Daniel 11:32
- 1 John 4:7, 8; 5:20

**Mediate on this and list some benefits, encouragements from knowing:**

- Our Hope
- His / Our Riches
- His Power towards us

**What will you do, or deepen,** to better get to know God and His heavenly gifts to us?

"We have not known thee as we ought, nor learned thy wisdom, grace, and pow'r;  
the things of earth have filled our thought, and trifles of the passing hour.

Lord, give us light thy truth to see, and make us wise in knowing thee."

—Thomas Benson Pollock (1889)

**A Discipleship Tool of Christ Community Fellowship**  
Kerry S. Doyal—Pastor

## **GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW HIM!**

Let's pray to know God and His heavenly provisions better

What do you pray about for a new believer? After you thank God for their faith in Christ and love for other believers—signs of salvation—what do you ask God for on their behalf? While the backgrounds and life situations of every believer are unique, we all have the same foundational, essential need: to know God.

Nothing is more important for any believer than a growing knowledge of God and His heavenly provisions for us. These core truths are the building blocks of spiritual literacy. Far more significant than self-awareness is knowing God. Moving beyond mere saving knowledge, we are to grow in our grasp of Him: His person, character, attributes, ways . . .

After 14 incredible verses filled with what God has done for us in Christ, Paul tells new believers how he is praying for them (Ephesians 1:15-22). Take notes! We should ask this for ourselves and others and do our part to get to know Him better.

**1:15** This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **16** I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. **17** I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

**20** He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens— **21** far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. **22** And he subjected everything under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.” (**Ephesians 1:15-22— CSB**)

## The Context: Our Blessings in Christ (vs. 1-14)

Look what God has Done! So that we Could be:

- Holy and Blameless before God, He chose us
- Adopted into His family, He Predestined us
- Recipients of His Riches and Great Grace, He Redeemed, Forgave us
- Knowing His plans, purposes in Christ, He made known to us the mystery of His will
- Praising His glorious grace, He Chose us, having predestined us
- Included in Christ, He let us hear the word of truth, the gospel
- Guaranteed our Inheritance, He sealed us with the Holy Spirit when we believed

## An Outline of this Rich Prayer:

### "Glorious Father,

Thank You for the faith and love I see in \_\_\_\_\_.

Give them—me too—a spirit of clear insight and input into who You are.

### "Lord, open the eyes of our hearts so we may clearly see:

**The Hope** we have in Your calling of us

**The Riches** we have in our inheritance from You

**The Power** that is available to us

Your power which You displayed in Christ  
in His resurrection and ascension  
and in putting every power under Him

### "I ask these things in the name of Jesus,

the Head of the church, to whom I gladly submit, amen."

## The Greatest Need We Have is: (vs. 15-22)

### ❖ To Know God!

- Paul loaded our boats with incredible things to know about God (vs 1-14)
- These heavenly truths are our deepest, truest identity. They're transforming, freeing
- God has grasped us; we are to seek to grasp who He is

**So many are on an endless search** to know themselves, to be true to their selves, follow our hearts. We are convinced—deceived—that if we could only grasp who we are . . . Self-knowledge has its place (Romans 12:1-8), but it can be an idolatrous distraction and is a trifling compared to the importance of knowing God.

**Yet, the heart of eternal life is . . .** Hear Jesus' prayer in John 17:3  
"And this is eternal life, that they know you,  
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." (ESV)

### Knowing Him is Crucial to:

- Worship that honors, befits Him. Not re-making Him in our image
- Obeying, loving, serving Him
- Representing Him rightly as ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5)
- Abiding in Him, especially in trials (read 1 Peter 1-3; James 1:1-12)

### We Know Him Through:

- Creation: General Revelation (Psalm 19:1-6; 104; Romans 1:19-23)
- His Word: Special Revelation (Psalm 1; 19:7-14; 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17)
- His Spirit, People, Teachers (Proverbs 1-7; 1 Timothy 1-4)

**He is worth this pursuit!** In prison, facing possible death, Paul declared: "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . . that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death . . ." (Philippians 3:7, 8, 10—ESV)

**It Begins with Trusting in Him for Forgiveness, Salvation**  
(2:1-10; John 3:16-18; 8:29-32; Romans 6:23)

### ❖ To also Know His Heavenly Provisions for us. The:

- **Hope we have in His calling us** (cf. 1 Peter 1:1-5)  
We are NOT orphans (John 14-16)! Adopted, secured, loved . . .  
We have His imperishable hope, even in death (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
- **Riches of our Inheritance with other Believers**  
We have everything we need for life and godliness (cf. 1:3-5;  
1 Peter 1:3-5)  
We can be content (Philippians 4:10-20; 1 Timothy 6)
- **Unequaled Power, that is ours as well.** A power that is:  
Part of Jesus' resurrection power (cf. Romans 1:4)  
Rooted in Christ's unique exalted position: seated!  
Greater than ALL other powers and any authorities (cf. 6:10-20)