

HTPC— Fall, 2017 Sunday School

“Ephesians: The Beauty of Christ and His Blood-Bought Bride”

Week 1: “Every Spiritual Blessing in Christ”

I. Background of the Book of Ephesians

A. Paul’s missionary journeys and his letters

1. Book of Acts
2. Paul as apostle (Spirit-inspired!)-pastor
3. “Theology of Paul”

B. Paul’s relationship to the Ephesians

1. Question about 1:1— “in Ephesus.”
2. Acts 19— Paul to Ephesus
 - a. The word of the Lord continued to increase- vv. 8ff:
 - b. The riot in Ephesus 19:21ff:
 - c. Acts 20:

C. The writing, date, delivery and distinctives of the letter

II. Ephesians Chapter 1- Devotional Theologizing and Prayer

A. Paul's prefatory word (1:1-2)

B. Paul's *devotional, theological* run-on sentence (1:3-14)— may we be such grammarians!

1. God-centered (v.3)

2. People-oriented (v. 3)

3. Christ-centered (v. 3)

4. Eternity (v. 4)

5. Comprehensive (vv. 10,11)

6. In summary:

C. Paul's *devotional prayer* for the Ephesians (1:15-23)

1. v.15

2. vv. 16ff, 1:3-14

3. v. 19ff & cf. 1:10

4. We must pray *boldly* for one another- we must pray *optimistically* for one another- we must pray in *cosmically Christ-centered* ways for one another as we pray God-saturated prayers.

5. Application

D. What might Pauline theologizing and prayer look like for us as a congregation?
As families?

Write down particular people for whom you want to lay hold of these truths and for whom you desire pray to God. And, as only God can arrange things, the more you are praying these prayers for others and defining biblical fellowship this way, the more you yourself are growing in the same trajectory.