I THANK GOD – WEEK 2

That You May Know Him Better

Ephesians 1:3–23

GUIDED SERMON NOTES

Follow along with the sermon and take notes. Fill in the blanks. Write down your own responses to what God is showing you.

1 PRAYER WARRIOR OR PRAYER WORRIER?

We know how to pray when something goes wrong. Those are good prayers. But sometimes the problem becomes so large in our vision that we lose sight of Christ.

- The prayer worrier becomes consumed with what needs to _____.
- The prayer warrior asks God to help them see _____ clearly.

What problem has been dominating my prayers?

2 BEFORE PAUL PRAYS, HE BLESSES GOD.

Ephesians 1:3–14 begins with everything God has already accomplished in Christ. Paul remembers that God has:

- _____ us into His family.
- _____ us through Christ's blood.
- _____ us with the Holy Spirit.

Before Paul looks at their needs, he remembers God's _____.

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses."
EPHESIANS 1:7 (ESV, EXCERPT)

3 GRACE → GRATITUDE → PRAYER

Paul moves from praising God for His grace to thanking God for His people and praying for them.

Paul does not ignore their need to grow. He remembers what Christ has already done before asking God for what comes next.

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."
EPHESIANS 1:16 (ESV, EXCERPT)

Who do I need to begin thanking God for?

4 OPEN THE EYES OF THEIR HEARTS.

These believers already know the gospel. Paul prays that God will help them see more clearly what is already theirs in Christ. He wants them to know:

- The _____ of God's calling.
- The riches of His _____.
- The greatness of His _____.

"having the eyes of your hearts enlightened."
EPHESIANS 1:18 (ESV, EXCERPT)

What has become bigger than Christ in my vision?

5 JESUS FILLS THE HORIZON.

The power Paul describes is the power God displayed when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him above every authority.

Jesus is risen. Jesus is reigning. Everything is under His feet. The answer to our deepest need is not simply better circumstances. It is Christ.

"far above all rule and authority and power and dominion."
EPHESIANS 1:21 (ESV, EXCERPT)

BOTTOM LINE: *Don't just pray for changed circumstances. Pray for clearer sight of Christ.*

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WOLFEBORO, NH
FOUNDED 1812
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Watch / Listen

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THE WEEKLY PATH

Ephesians 1:3–23

Read each passage in context. Ask: Who wrote it? To whom? What is happening? How does the surrounding passage shape its meaning?

1 MONDAY — WHY DOES PAUL BEGIN WITH PRAISE?

READ
Ephesians 1:3–14
Romans 8:14–17

DISCUSS
What has God already given believers in Christ? How does knowing you are adopted and redeemed change the way you approach God when life becomes difficult?

APPLY
Thank God for one specific gift of grace. Choose one person you will remember in prayer throughout this week.

2 TUESDAY — HOW DOES GRATITUDE BECOME PRAYER?

READ
Ephesians 1:15–17
Philippians 1:3–11

DISCUSS
What leads Paul to thank God for these believers? Why does he continue praying for people whose faith he already celebrates? Where do you tend to overlook gratitude?

APPLY
Name one evidence of God's grace in your chosen person's life. Thank God for it, then pray that they will know Him better.

3 WEDNESDAY — WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEE CLEARLY?

READ
Ephesians 1:17–19
Colossians 1:9–14

DISCUSS
What does Paul ask God to give people who already believe? What is the difference between knowing a truth about Christ and living with a clearer understanding of it?

APPLY
Identify one fear or circumstance dominating your vision. Ask God to help you and your chosen person see Christ more clearly.

4 THURSDAY — WHAT DOES PAUL WANT THEM TO KNOW?

READ
Ephesians 1:18–20
1 Peter 1:3–5

DISCUSS
How are hope, inheritance, and God's power connected to Christ's resurrection? Which of these truths do you most need to understand more deeply right now?

APPLY
Pray Ephesians 1:18–19 for your person by name. Ask God to deepen their hope, their understanding of belonging to Him, and their confidence in His power.

5 FRIDAY — WHO FILLS THE HORIZON?

READ
Ephesians 1:20–23
Colossians 1:15–20

DISCUSS
What do these passages reveal about the risen Christ's authority? How does knowing Jesus reigns over everything change the way you pray for difficult circumstances and relationships?

APPLY
Pray once more for your person: "Jesus, let them know You better." Then add: "Jesus, let me know You better too." Continue carrying that prayer beyond this week.

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