

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION –
Ephesians 1:15-23

Note – this study is adapted from the Matthias Media Walk this Way Ephesians studies written by Bryson Smith. Available from www.gotherefor.com.au

Read Ephesians 1:15-16.

1. What is the reason for Paul's prayer?
2. What impression do you get from these verses about Paul's commitment to prayer?
3. What is the first thing that Paul does in his prayer?

Read Ephesians 1:17-23.

4. What three things does Paul ask God for in verses 17-19?
5. Why do you think Paul wants the Ephesians to know and experience God's power? (Compare 3:16-17.)
6. In verses 19-23, Paul describes an example of God's power at work. Look up Romans 1:4 and 1 Corinthians 6:14 for more of the same. In the context of Paul's prayer, how do these examples give us encouragement?

Implications

(Choose one or more of the following to think about further or to discuss in your group.)

- Have a look at some of the other prayers of Paul (e.g. Phil 1:9-11; Col 1:9-14; 2 Thess 1:11-12). What new things do you discover about the way Paul prays?
- What do you feel is the main thing we can learn from Paul about prayer?
- "But it's different for Paul. He's an apostle, a super Christian. I'm just an average person. There's no way I could pray the way Paul does." Do you agree? Why/why not?
- Are there things in your life at the moment that would be helped by a clearer understanding of "the riches of his glorious inheritance"? How would this clearer understanding help?

Give thanks and pray

Use Paul's prayer in Ephesians as a model, and pray the same sorts of things for Christians you know.