

What Christ Has Done > Ephesians 1:15-23

1:15-17 *Why Paul praises.* What an encouragement that we have Paul's prayer recorded for us: he praises God for His work in the Ephesians to make them both faithful in the Lord and also loving toward one another.

1:18-19 *What Paul prays for.* Because of the Lord's work in the Ephesians, Paul prays that they would gain a deeper and wider understanding of all that they already have in Jesus: He has already done the work; they (and we!) get the opportunity to more fully realize what all it means to be saved in Jesus and to have life in Him.

1:20-23 *Christ over all.* Christ's work is a blessing rooted in eternity past, and it's what we will enjoy forever. Yet, it's also what we have right now, in this life – and we need it! Christ's rule and authority are our blessing and guarantee that He will see us safely from this day through to our heavenly home.

The Point: In Christ, we are more blessed than we realize.

Prayer: Lord, give us a deeper understanding, and a more joyful response to, all that You have planned and will accomplish and are – right now – at work to bring about in Your church. Give us encouragement by seeing the bigger picture of Your grace given to us and working in us.

Application: In this case, simply knowing *is* how we respond. Know and believe and cherish the Lord who cares for His church past, present, and future. Trust Him all the more and rejoice in Him that His plans are for our blessing forever!

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
