

# The Fulness of Christ

**TEXT:** Eph. 1:15-23

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. **FOCAL POINT** OF GOD'S PLAN – **JESUS DEATH ON THE CROSS.**
  - 1. **All things summed up in Christ.**
  - 2. Planned from before the foundation of the world.
  - 3. **ALL spiritual blessings come through him.**
  - 4. We are **made full in Christ** (**Col. 2:9-10**).
- B. PAUL STATES THAT THE **CHURCH IS THE FULNESS OF CHRIST** (**vs. 23**).
- C. OUR TEXT IS A PRAYER THAT PAUL OFFERS ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF EPHEBUS. WE WILL STUDY THIS PRAYER.

## I. THE GROUND OF PAUL'S PRAYER (vs. 15).

- A. HE HAD HEARD OF THEIR **FAITH** AND THEIR **LOVE**.
- B. THESE CAUSED HIM TO GIVE THANKS.

## II. PAUL'S PETITION: THAT THEY MAY POSSESS AND KNOW (vs. 17-19).

- A. (**vs. 17**) THAT THEY MAY **POSSESS A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION** IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND CHRIST.
  - 1. "**Spirit**" here is **not** the **Holy Spirit**. It is a disposition that reflects wisdom and understanding of God and his Son (**1 Cor. 2:14-16**).
  - 2. How is this spirit characterized?
    - a. **Eph. 5:15-17. Careful** and **discriminating**.
    - b. **Eph. 4:17-19. Humble** and **dependent** upon God.
    - c. **James 3:12-18. Focused** on that which is above, **reflected in behavior**.
  - 3. "Revelation in the knowledge of him."
    - a. Our knowledge of God is a gift from God.
    - b. God reveals himself in his son (**John 1:18**).
    - c. This spirit which reflects wisdom and knowledge is a gift from God.
- B. (**vs. 18-19**) THE THEY MAY **KNOW** ...
  - 1. **What is the hope** of his calling (**Acts 24:15; 2 Cor. 4:13-14**).
  - 2. **What is the riches of the glory of his inheritance** in the saints.
    - a. We are his heritage (**Eph. 1:11; 2 Cor. 6:16-18**).
    - b. As God's heritage we reflect and share his glory (**1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 2:6-7**).
    - c. We enjoy Sonship and Fatherly protection (**Rom. 8:16-17; 31**).
  - 3. **What is the exceeding greatness of his power** to usward who believe.
    - a. The power of God is a gift to the believer as it is promised to work for him.
    - b. It is according to the strength of his might – omnipotence (**Jer. 32:17**).
    - c. His power was visibly demonstrated in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ (**vs. 20; 1 Pet. 1:3**)
    - d. **That power is working for us** (**Phil. 2:12-13; 4:13**).

### **III. THE PLACE OF CHRIST (vs. 20-23).**

- A. **THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD** IN HEAVENLY PLACES (**Acts 2:34-36**).
- B. **ABOVE ALL AUTHORITY** OR SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY (**Matt. 28:18**).
  - 1. In this world è civil, family, social, etc.
  - 2. In that which is to come è Heaven.
- C. **ABOVE ALL THINGS TO THE CHURCH** WHICH IS HIS BODY (**Col. 3:17**).

### **IV. THE FULNESS OF CHRIST IS THE CHURCH (vs. 23).**

- A. EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING OF GOD IS **IN CHRIST** (**Eph. 1:3; Col. 2:9-10**).
- B. EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN CHRIST IS **IN THE CHURCH**.
- C. THE CHURCH IS HIS BODY (**vs. 23; 5:23**).

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. **HOW DOES ONE GET INTO THE CHURCH** TO ENJOY THESE BLESSINGS?  
(**1 Cor. 12:13**).
- B. **HOW DO YOU GET INTO CHRIST?** (**Gal. 3:26-27**).