

## Ephesians 1:15-23

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-15-15

### Summary:

- Welcome/salutation (1-2). Praise (3-14). **Prayer (15-23)**
- Trinitarian structure - “that they may **know**” (v. 18, cf. 3:18; Col. 1:9; Phil. 1:9)
- Role of Revelation - “spirit of wisdom and revelation” - work of the Spirit in making God knowable
- “the eyes of your hearts enlightened” to see:
  - “the Hope of God’s Call” - an altogether new life in Christ
  - “the Glory of God’s Inheritance” - not every particular, but its “riches”
  - “the Greatness of God’s Power” - demonstrated by:
    - Resurrection and ascension
    - Enthronement over all powers
    - Headship over the \_\_\_\_\_

“the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (v. 23)

3 possible meanings:

### Option 1

“And He (F) put all things in subjection under His (S) feet, and gave Him (S) as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His (S) body, the fullness (S) of Him (F) who fills all in all.”

- Strange syntax
- Theological issue:
  - Scripture asserts that the fullness of the Godhead is said to dwell in Christ (Col. 1:19; Col. 2:9), but stops short in saying he IS the fullness of God

### Option 2

“And He (F) put all things in subjection under His (S) feet, and gave Him (S) as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His (S) body, the fullness (church - actively) of Him (S) who fills all in all.”

- Many famous commentators have taken this interpretation
- The church \_\_\_\_\_ Christ - As a head without a body is incomplete, so the church fulfills God’s purpose for Christ.
- Lacks Scriptural corroboration. Doesn’t completely fit context.

### Option 3

And He (F) put all things in subjection under His (S) feet, and gave Him (S) as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His (S) body, the fullness (church - passively) of Him (S) who fills all in all.

- In the NT Christ is constantly said to indwell or fill his church (cf. 2:21-22)
- Fits within the immediate context of His lordship over all things
- Two expressions taken and fused together: Church is his “body” - he \_\_\_\_\_ it. Church is his “fullness” - he \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- The head fills the body with powers of movement and perception, and thereby inspires the whole body with life and direction (cf. Eph. 4:13-16; Col. 1:18-19)

- The same one who is head over all the universe that he fills with himself is also head over the church whom he fills.

### **A Few Implications of the Prayer**

- \_\_\_\_\_ of praise and prayer
  - Seeking spiritual equilibrium
- Theologically-\_\_\_\_\_ prayer
  - Hope of God's calling → God chose you to be holy and adopted (vv. 4-5)
  - Riches of the glorious inheritance → Spirit is a pledge of our inheritance (v. 14), we are co-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17) in whom all of the universe will be summed up (v. 10)
  - Surpassing greatness of his power → we have the HS now (v. 14). The same Spirit by whom power Christ was raised from the dead is alive in us (Rom. 8:11)
  - Theology \_\_\_\_\_ his prayer.
- Illumination and thought
  - How do we grow in understanding?
    - Pray and wait
    - Study and ponder
  - Paul brings them together
- Knowledge and faith
  - Prays for knowledge for those who "believe" (v. 19)
  - Faith and reason \_\_\_\_\_ each other
    - Faith cannot grow without a firm basis of knowledge; knowledge is meaningless if it does not bring forth faith.

## The Purpose of Bible Study

To \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_.

- Jeremiah 31:10 - "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations"
- 1 Sam 3:9 - "'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'"
- Luke 11:28 - "Jesus replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'"

## Δ = 1 person or 3 persons?

**John 10:30** - "I and the Father are one." - 1 **identity** or 1 **essence**?

For consideration:

- John 14:7-11 - "7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him." 8 Philip \*said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 **Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me?** The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but **the Father abiding in Me** does His works. **11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me;** otherwise believe because of the works themselves."
- John 14:16-17, 20 - The Son will ask the Father to send another, the HS: "He abides with you and will be in you" and "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you"
- John 15:4, 10 - Like a branches connected to a vine "abide in me and me in you... Abide in my love as I abide in the Father's love"
- John 17:20-21 - "20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 **that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You,** that they also may be in Us, so that the world may [f]believe that You sent Me."
- John 17:22-23 - "22 The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity,** so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

## Summary from Athanasian Creed:

"...And the catholic (universal, not Roman) faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; **Neither confounding the Persons; nor dividing the Essence.** For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal..."

