**Week 1: Introduction to Ephesians**

**Eph. 1:15-23 (New Living Translation)**

**Paul’s Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom**

15 Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people everywhere, 16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. 18 I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called—His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance. 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.

 21 Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere.

**Through the text:**

1. Why is this section surprising? What motivates Paul to be thankful? How does he pray?

2. Beginning in verse 1:17, Paul prays some specific prayers for the Ephesians. To whom does Paul pray? For what specifically, does he pray? For what ultimate purpose? (1:17b & 18a)

3. Paul prays for the Ephesians to be given and to grasp three truths, regarding their relationship with God. (1:17b-20) What are these three truths and why are they significant?

a. knowledge of God (17b)

b. hope (18b)

c. power (19a)

4. Thankfully, Paul expands his teaching about God’s power by describing the working of that power in 1:19b-21. How did God exert His power in Christ? Why is it significant that God did more than just “raise” Jesus? What else happened?

5. What does this passage teach us about the position and power of the risen Christ? Why is this reality important to us? What is the relationship between Christ and the Church? (1:21-23)

**SO WHAT?**

Read again the prayer in 1:17-19a

6. How well do you “know” Christ? Can wisdom help you in this area? How will you pray about this area?

7. How would your daily life be different if you lived as one who understood the hope and power that we have in Christ? How will it be different now that we have studied about the reality of our situation, if we are “in Christ?”

8. Christ has the supremacy over all things, even the Church. How does this true statement help you enjoy/survive today and tomorrow? How can this reality help your attitudes, thoughts, and actions be more in line with a follower of Christ?