

Nov 13, 2022



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God promises to give us discernment and understanding. As we grow in a deeper knowledge of His character and ways, we can honor and understand Him more

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Gracious God, help me to grow in Your wisdom

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding

(Prov 2:6 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", July 05, 2022)

**Series: God's Exceptional
Choice**

UNIT 3: We are God's Artwork

NEXT WEEK

**We Are God's Handiwork
(Eph 2:1-10)**

Christ is Wisdom Eph 1:15-23

Lesson Background and Introduction

Paul's first contact with the Ephesians was on his second missionary journey (AD 52-54). After his lengthy ministry in Corinth (Acts 18:11), Paul, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila, set sail for Ephesus. He remained there only a short time and then departed for Jerusalem, leaving Priscilla and Aquila behind (18:18-21). Paul's second visit to Ephesus was on his third missionary journey, the account of which is recorded in Acts 18:23-21:6 (about AD 54-58). He spent about two and a half years in that city (compare the chronological references in 19:8, 10 and 20:31). Those converted under Paul's ministry gave up their magic practices and burned their magic books, worth 50,000 drachmas, which is estimated to be equal to the yearly income of more than 130 men (19:18-19). The impact of his ministry had such an effect in the city that Demetrius, a leader of the local silversmiths, incited a mob at the theater against Christian teaching (19:23-41). Demetrius's motive was less religious than economic. The message of Christianity was making inroads in a great trade city of the Roman Empire, upsetting the status quo in the process. Paul's message reached both Jews and Greeks (Acts 19:10, 17; 20:21). After leaving Ephesus, he ministered in Macedonia and Achaia. And on his return Paul visited the Ephesian elders at Miletus, where he reminded them of his ministry, warned them about false teachers, and prayed with them before his departure (20:15-38). The letter we call Ephesians came about some five years later, while Paul was imprisoned (Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; 6:20). Our text picks up exactly where Ephesians 1:1-14 left off. Most letters in Paul's time offered a brief word of thanks to whatever god the writer worshipped. Paul followed this practice in most of his letters in the New Testament, praising only the true God. And he used the thanksgiving not just as a formality, part of good letter writing, but as a way to introduce ideas that he would develop later in the letter.

Even the best of times can be very challenging. Paul's thanksgiving prayer in today's lesson is a reminder that in Christ we have an eternal reality, already begun, that transforms our lives. We can experience the fullness of living because Jesus gives that fullness to his body, the church. The call to action for this lesson is quite simple, but quite difficult: rest in the truth of what Paul has taught. We do nothing to create the reality: that the Father has chosen to reveal himself in the Son and bring us to greater knowledge of him through the Spirit. All we can do is give thanks for this reality and constantly strive to live worthy of the calling. Our Lord is the Lord of the universe, and he gives us life to the fullest.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Prayer for the Present (Eph 1:15-16)

Present faith (15)

- Faith based on seeking the God that exists (Heb 11:6)
- Faith that trusts God and His deliverance (Ps 78:21-22)
- Faith that results in no condemnation (John 3:18)
- Faith that believes that Jesus is God in the flesh and Savior (John 8:24)
- Faith that expresses itself through love (Gal 5:6)
- Faith that results in entering God's rest (Heaven) (Heb 4:2-3)

Present love (15)

- Love as God has loved us (John 13:34-35)
- Love by carrying other's burdens (Gal 6:2)
- Love by living a life of love (Eph 5:1-2)
- Love as God has taught us (1 Thess 4:9-10)
- Love with sincerity (1 Peter 1:22)

Present thanksgiving (16)

- Thankful for faith (Rom 1:8)
- Thankful for love of others (2 Thess 1:3)
- Thankful for remembrance with clear conscience (2 Tim 1:3)
- Thankful with joy (Phil 1:4)

Prayer for Growth (Eph 1:17-19)

Growth through knowing God (17)

- Knowledge of God is understanding (Prov 9:10)
- Knowledge of God is found in the fear of the Lord (Prov 2:3-5)
- Knowledge of God is found through Jesus (Matt 11:27)
- Knowledge of God is to have eternal life (John 17:3)
- Knowledge of God is to know truth (1 John 5:20)

Growth through enlightenment (18)

- Enlightenment to become sons of light (John 12:36)
- Enlightenment of opening up the Scriptures (Luke 24:30-32)
- Enlightenment of the inner being to the knowledge of God's love (Eph 3:16-19)
- Enlightenment to know God better and to know the hope to which we are called (Eph 1:17-21)
- Enlightenment to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45)

Growth in God's greatness (19)

- Greatness because of His acts of power (Ps 150:2)
- Greatness because He is the Lord (Ezek 38:23)
- Greatness because He is worthy (Ps 48:1)
- Greatness because He is the great King (Ps 95:3)

Praise of God's Power (Eph 1:20-23)

Power of resurrection (20)

- Resurrection that saints will be united with (Rom 6:5)
- Resurrection by the power of God (Acts 2:23-24)
- Resurrection of the saints to meet Jesus in the air (1 Thess 4:17)
- Resurrection that will result in change (1 Cor 15:52)

Power over the earth (21)

- Power over the earth by the Word of God (Ps 33:6-9)
- Power over the earth where God's invisible qualities are displayed (Rom 1:19-20)
- Power over the earth that was done through Jesus (Heb 1:1-3)
- Power over the earth that was formed out of water (2 Peter 3:3-7)
- Power over the earth formed by the Will of God (Rev 4:11)

Power over His Church (22-23)

- A Church that overcomes (Matt 16:18-20)
- A Church that bears fruit (Col 1:5-6)
- A Church whose people are God's building (1 Cor 3:9)
- A Church that is courageous and full of hope (Heb 3:6)