



## Monday, December 19

The opening words are filled with celebration of all the lavish benefits of knowing God through Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:3 - 14 is all one sentence in the original Greek—a long litany of praise. How amazing it is that Paul could have written such jubilant words from the difficult prison setting in which he found himself! Paul's hope was to remind the Ephesian church that the spiritual benefits of knowing Christ were more than adequate for all they needed.

### Ephesians 1: 1-14

- Make a list of each spiritual blessing Paul described. What do you notice about the order in which he named them?
- Which of these spiritual blessings do you most need to embrace and take advantage of? Why?

## Tuesday, December 20

Paul outlined for the believers in Ephesus what his prayers for them had been. By naming exactly what he had prayed for, he sought to help them understand more about the spiritual maturity into which God desired them to grow.

### Ephesians 1:15-23

- In Ephesians 1:18-21, Paul talked about an extraordinary power God makes available to and through us as believers. According to Paul, in what other situation did God also demonstrate this same power?
- The prayer requests Paul offered for the Ephesians are excellent prayers for us to offer on behalf of others. For whom can you pray today?

## Wednesday, December 21

The letter to the Ephesians clearly reiterates the powerful message of the gospel: we are "saved," or made new in Jesus, by God's grace through faith. Further, it clarifies the bold and exciting reality that through Christ all believers become one church family, with Jesus as the cornerstone. The beautiful metaphor of a congregation of believers from every background uniting to become a "temple" containing the Holy Spirit is an objective for every church.

### Ephesians 2

- According to verses 13-18, what kind of peace does Jesus bring? What happens as a result?
- Reread verse 10. What do you think God has in mind for you to do next? Write a prayer asking for God's wisdom and guidance in this.

## Thursday, December 22

Paul gave practical instructions about what steps to take to develop spiritual maturity. He reminded the Ephesians that each of them had been equipped with special gifts. By using these gifts together, all would grow into a life worthy of their calling in Christ. The mark of maturity in Christ would be clearly revealed through their treatment of each other.

### Ephesians 4

- In our quest toward spiritual maturity, what specifically does Paul say we are to put off? What are we to put on?
- In what area of your life do you still struggle with spiritual immaturity? What steps could you take to grow?