

Ephesians 1:15-23

Crossroads Class - Chapel Hill Bible Church

September 10, 2006

Step 1: Survey the Big Picture

- *What was the historical background of this letter? (historical)*
- *How does this passage fit into the letter? (literary)*
- *Where does this letter fit in God's unfolding story of redemption? (redemptive)*

Step 2: Explore the Passage

- Paul's prayer (1:15-19)
 - "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,"
 - "a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him"
 - "the hope to which he has called you"
 - "the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints"
 - "the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe"
- Christ's exaltation reveals God's power (1:20-23)
 - "he [God] raised him [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places"
 - "he put all things under his feet"
 - "gave him as head over all things to the church"

Step 3: Discover the Big Idea

"After demonstrating that believers have all spiritual blessings (1:3-14), Paul prayed that believers would come to know God intimately (v. 17) in order that they might know three facts: (1) the *past* call of salvation that produced hope (v. 18), (2) the *future* inheritance that God has in His saints (v. 18), and (3) the *present* power of God that is available to believers, which (a) was manifested in the *past* in Christ's resurrection and Ascension, (b) will be manifested in the *future* in Christ's headship over Creation, and (c) is *presently* manifested in Christ's headship over the church." Harold Hoehner

Step 4: Respond to God

Ephesians 1:15-23 (ESV)

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.