



Worship Guide for **February 9, 2020**

Wi-Fi password for westwoodguestsecured:
westwoodguest

Sermon Notes

Pray This Way

Ephesians 1:15-20 (pew Bible pg. 976)

In Ephesians chapter one, Paul begins his letter with what has been called “the richest sentence in the Bible”. In the Greek language, verses three through fourteen is one incredibly long (202 word) complex sentence. Once Paul gets started, he can’t seem to find a place to stop until we have a three-fold call to worship: “to the praise of his glory”! Stanza one (vv3-6) looks back and praises the Father for His gracious plan of salvation. Stanza two looks at the present (vv7-12) and praises the Son for His redemptive work. Stanza three (vv13-14) praises the Spirit for His sealing power.

In the today’s passage, Paul demonstrates his deep love for the Ephesians in the way he prays for them. In this prayer, in the context of this prayer, we find one of the mysteries of the Christian faith. Has God planned and purposed all things according to the counsel of his perfect will? Yes! Has God ordained that the blessings of those plans and purposes be requested and realized through the prayers of his saints? Yes! God’s providence and the prayers of his people are not contradictory realities. The very thing God has preordained and accomplished in Christ Paul now prays for on behalf of the saints in Ephesus. James M. Boice says, *“It would be hard to find a passage of scripture that stresses the sovereignty of God in salvation more strongly (except perhaps Romans 8). Yet is also emphasizes the importance and urgency of prayer just as strongly. Those two things give the chapter its shape.”*

It is because God is sovereignly working that we can pray like Paul, that the God who planned and accomplished this great salvation would now complete it as his people grow in their knowledge of God and the knowledge of the elements of salvation: the hope we have, the inheritance we are promised, and the great power available to us through the Lord Jesus Christ.

It will be the beginning of Ephesians 4 before we are told / commanded to do anything. But as we read Paul’s prayers in chapter one and three, there is much we can learn about prayer. More importantly – there is much we learn about the one to whom we are praying. As we grow in our knowledge of God, we grow in our love for him. As we grow in our love for him, we grow in the desire to be with him, to hear from him, to talk to him. Paul is praying for the saints to know God - this is a prayer for knowledge. We can learn from it, and as we do, we will want to imitate it – to make it our own as we pray.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Evidences of Grace (v 15)

A Prayer of Thanksgiving That Is Prayed Persistently (v16)

A Prayer of Thanksgiving That Is Specifically Focused (v16)

A Prayer of Thanksgiving That Turns To Petition: (v17)



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A Prayer of Thanksgiving That Turns To Petition: (v17)

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

In what specific ways were you challenged from this passage in the way you pray for brothers and sisters in Christ?

What does this passage teach us about what it means to know God?

What does this passage and message teach us about thanksgiving? How does thanksgiving provide a foundation throughout our prayer life?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.*

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry
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Contact Us

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Upcoming Events

Feb 14-15 - Marriage Retreat
Feb 28 - Membership Class
Mar 18 - Church Conference
Mar 20-21 - Mom 2 Mom Sale
April 4 - One Day with God

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