



## City Church ②

### Introduction | Christ's body

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In this Scripture passage, the apostle Paul prays. To understand the word of God as truth and applicable to life requires prayer. Because of that, in the first place Paul prays for wisdom and the revelation of the Holy Spirit to be given. He prays that the eyes of their hearts to be opened and that they would know what they have received from God. Furthermore, he prays that his readers would see the all powerful God at work in Christ. In light of this, I want us to consider the significance of the church as Christ's body. Today's 3 points are prayer, the all powerful God, Christ's body the church.

### SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 1:15-23

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15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[f] 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 the 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.

### QUESTIONS |

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1: (verses 16-19) Paul, after he has written his praise of God, prays that the Ephesians oils know God's plan. What kind of prayer was that? Let's look specifically at what this from scripture. Why is a prayer like this necessary?

2: As we look at this prayer of Paul's we can see that it is a prayer that shows an understanding of God's person and work. As you look at your prayers, what takes precedence and the place of importance? Let's look at our prayer under the light of scripture.

3: (verses 20-21) As scripture describes God as all powerful, what is being declared? From these verses, what do we, and you personally, learn of Christ?

4: How should we understand the teaching of "The all powerful God" in Scripture? How can we say that God's omnipotence is seen in the life, crucifixion and death of Christ? (ref Rom 8:4) share with one another.



5: : (verses 22-23) How do these verses describe the church? (Ref C S Lewis)

6: Everyone knows that Christians and the church fail, sin and make mistakes. In light of this how are you encouraged by the realization that the Church is Christ's body and that this community is full of Christ according to scripture? How is Christ displayed by the Church?

## Reading |

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Romans 8:34

34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p.91

God can show Himself as He really is only to real men. And that means not simply to men who are individually good, but to men who are united together in a body, loving one another, helping one another, showing Him to one another. For that is what God meant humanity to be like; like players in one band, or organs in one body. Consequently, the one really adequate instrument for learning about God, is the whole Christian community, waiting for Him together.

## PRAYER |

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- Pray in gratitude that you know the deeply. Pray that you know the wisdom and revelation of the Holy Spirit. Pray that the eyes of your heart would be opened and that you would continue in the hope given by God and that you would know the omnipotent work of God in Christ.
- Pray that you would taste Christ's goodness and through the church spread his gospel.

## UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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1. Grace City Choir (15)
2. Lunchtime meetings (16Akasaka、17Kasumigaseki、18Otemachi)
3. Obento Project (20)
4. Worship & Fellowship (21) anniversary (7years) City church | Ephesians ③ 「Gospel of grace」 14:00～、@TKP Garden Takebashi
5. Anniversary concert (21) @TKPGarden Takebashi
6. Lunchtime meetings (24Marunouchi、25Otemachi)
7. Worship & Fellowship (28) City Church | Ephesians④ 「God's family」 ①13:00～、②15:30～、@KDDI Hall