

***I Thank God
Flying through Ephesians***

Ephesians 1:15–18a

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INTRODUCTION

Review of Exposition:

1:3–6: [Believers ought to praise the Father] because He chose the Jewish part of the Church (and the Gentile part of the Church) in order that (*because He praiseworthy predestined the church to become adult heirs*) it will be holy in phase 3

1:7–12: [Bels ought to praise the Father] because Christ graciously redeemed the Church from death
(*taking care of a past problem*)

& graciously revealed that Christ will head the universe in the Millennium & made the Church a Millennial inheritor in order that Jewish (& Gentile) Church-Age bels would praise the Father
(*future motivation*)

1:13–14: [Bels ought to praise the Father] because the Holy Spirit protects the inheritance of Jews and Gentiles in the Church in order that the Father would be praised

Exposition

1:15–16 [In light of the Father preparing, the Son acquiring, and the Holy Spirit protecting the inheritance of for both Jewish and Gentile portions of the Church (1:3–14)] Paul continues thankfully praying for the Ephesians, because of their faith and love

A. 1:15a Therefore = [In light of the Father preparing, the Son acquiring, and the Holy Spirit protecting the inheritance of for both Jewish and Gentile portions of the Church (1:3–14)]

C. ☞☛ 1:16a Paul continues thanking God for the Ephesians

B. ☞☛ 1:15b [The reason Paul continues thanking God for the Ephesians is] because of their faith in Christ and love for all the saints

D. 1:16b [The means by which Paul continues thanking God for the Ephesians] is by prayer

1:17 [The content for which Paul continually prays for the Ephesians] is that the Holy Spirit would teach them about Christ (through the revealed word)

This passage (along with 1:3–14; 2:18; 3:14–17; and 4:4–6) contains a Trinitarian formula

This would not mean that the Holy Spirit is given to believers a second time, would it?

Ephesians 3:_____ contains a similar *apparent* difficulty, but the resolution is not hard

The meaning of the phrase: the Spirit of wisdom and revelation

The (Holy) Spirit who _____

Is revelation a technical term? Yes (when it is connected w/ God), but theologians may slightly over-refine their definitions

Cf. Matthew

An exegetical clue: How Paul's prayers fit within his books

1:18a [The reason Paul **prays** for the Holy Spirit to teach them about Christ (through the revealed word) is] because the Ephesians **were already enlightened**

NASB mistranslation: *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened

NKJV is acceptable (but a bit weak): the eyes of your understanding being enlightened

Preferable rendering: the eyes of your understanding have been enlightened

Have been enlightened is a perfect participle, so precedes its controlling verb

Thus: Paul **prays**. . . . the Ephesians **have already been enlightened**

Paul is not praying for them to be enlightened

Rather, the reason Paul prays is because they have been enlightened

Making sense of verses 17–18a

Paul prays that God would grant for the Spirit to teach them because they were already enlightened