

Interpretation

1. The words 'in Christ' or 'in him' are used frequently in this text. How are we to understand this? What is this saying about the Ephesians' relationship to Jesus?

2. Chapter 1 captures some of the 'now and not yet' nature of God's kingdom. For the Ephesians Christians, what part of the blessings given in Christ have they already received and what is yet to come?

3. Look at verses 15-23. Why do you think Paul includes these specific elements in his prayer?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. Today, how do we experience the spiritual blessings that have been given in Jesus? In your own life, what difference does it make to your current situation to remember the hope that you have in Christ?
2. In verse 22 and 23 Paul points out that Jesus is head of the church. What hints might Ephesians 1 give us about the mission of the church today?

Suggestion for Prayer

Try using Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1 as a model for your prayer for each other.