

The Body of Christ

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Walk Like an Ephesian Chapter 1:15-23

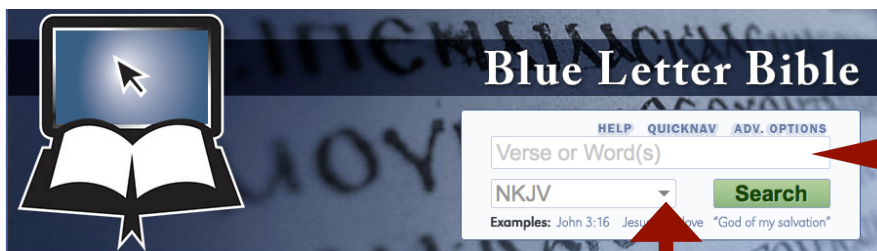
Before we begin our study for today, please pray for God to open the eyes of your heart to His Holy Word and teach you as you draw close to hear from Him. After you have prayed please read Ephesians 1:15-23. Please highlight or note any important verses or thoughts that come to your mind while you are reading.

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which 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 principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Now, please go to www.blueletterbible.org and read the same passage in **two** other versions of the Bible. In general, repeated readings of a text unlock greater understanding and comprehension. Often important insights are revealed as we mull over scripture. If you are not familiar with Blue Letter Bible (BLB), please follow the instructions below:

1. Go to BLB's homepage and type in Ephesians 1:15 in the search bar.



2. Next, hit the drop down arrow next to *NKJV* (or *KJV*) to switch versions of the Bible.
3. Hit the green search bar and read the text in the new version.

After you have read Ephesians 1:15-23 in two different versions, please add any additional insights to the notes you made earlier.

Now that you have read our text three times, please list the key concepts and themes of Ephesians 1:15-23.

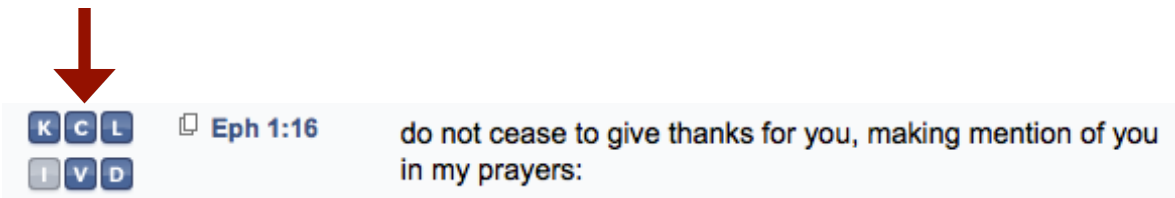
Using your key concepts and theme words, please write a one sentence summary of Ephesians 1:15-23.

Now we will take a close look at many things we are called to do or receive in Christ Jesus in this portion of scripture. Please read verses 15-16 again.

What two things should we be doing according to verse 16?

We are to *give thanks* (*eucharisteo*) and *pray* (*proseuchomai*) for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's go back to Blue Letter Bible (BLB) and do word studies for *eucharisteo* and *proseuchomai*.

1. From the BLB home page, type *Ephesians 1:16* in the search bar.
2. Now, scroll down to Ephesians 1:16 and click on the *blue c box* in the cluster at the left (note: if you see a rectangle that says *tools* instead of a cluster of 6 blue boxes, click on the *tools* box and the cluster of boxes will pop up.)



3. A menu should pop up that says *Textus Receptus*. Scroll down to the words *to give thanks* and click on the blue *G2168*. You should see the following:

Lexicon :: Strong's G2168 - *eucharisteō* Aa

εὐχαριστέω

Transliteration <i>eucharisteō</i>	Pronunciation yü-khä-rē-ste'-ō (Key) ▶ 🔊
Part of Speech verb	Root Word (Etymology) From εὐχάριστος (G2170)

Dictionary Aids

Vine's Expository Dictionary: [View Entry](#)

TDNT Reference: 9:407,1298

Outline of Biblical Usage

- I. to be grateful, feel thankful
- II. give thanks

4. Under the heading of **Outline of Biblical Usage**, you'll find definitions for the Greek word *eucharisteo*.
5. For more information on this word, please click on *View Entry* after **Vine's Expository Dictionary**.
6. To gather even more information trace the word origin by clicking on the blue *G2170* under the **Root Word (Etymology)** entry above.
7. Finally, additional information can be collected by scrolling further down the page and reading **Thayer's Lexicon (click on Click Here for the Rest of the Entry)**:

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

εὐχαριστέω, -ῶ; 1 aor. εὐχαρίστησα (Acts xxvii. 35) and ηὐχαρίστησα (Ro. i. 21 G L T Tr WH; see reff. in εὐδοκέω, init.); 1 aor. pass. subj. 3 pers. sing. εὐχαρισθηῆ (2 Co. i. 11); (εὐχάριστος, q. v.); **1.** *to be grateful, feel thankful*; so in the decree of the Byzantines in Dem.

[Click Here for the Rest of the Entry](#)



After you have made all your notes for *eucharisteo*, follow the above steps for the word *proseuchomai*.

We know that Paul was praying for the Christians in Ephesus, but what exactly was he praying for? Please search verses 17-19 and record your answers in the space provided:

Among other things, Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus to have a spirit of wisdom and revelation—things we should pray for ourselves and others as well.

Please use BLB as described above to write definitions for *wisdom* and *revelation*. I think you will be surprised at the depth of the word *wisdom*.

Why does Paul pray for the Ephesians to have these things (verse 17)?

Now please read verses 20-23 again.

Where did God seat Christ after He raised Him from the dead?

Jesus was seated at God's right hand, a place of honor and glory. *Why* was Christ seated? Because His work upon the cross was complete. In Jesus' final breath He announced, "It is finished" ... the payment for sin is finished, the power of sin and guilt is finished, the separation between God and man is finished, shame is finished, Satan's ugly plan for Christ and mankind is finished. Jesus finished it all at the cross.

Even though seated, Christ is infinitely higher and stronger than what (verse 21)?

In order to gain greater understanding of the power of Christ, let's take an in-depth look at what He is stronger than:

Principalities: In the Greek *arche*, which means *the first in a series, the first place of angels or demons*.

Powers: In the Greek *exousia*, which means *physical or mental power, strength, ability, and authority*.

Might: In the Greek *dynamis*, which means *inherent power, power that can be exerted, power of: resources, riches, wealth, the soul, armies or forces; power for performing miracles*.

Dominions: in the Greek *kyriotēs*, which means *power of lordship or government*.

Now with what we have learned about the concepts above, and power of Christ, let's rewrite verse 22. I'll get us started:

“Christ, who is seated at the right hand of God, is far above the strongest leader of the demonic hosts ...

According to verse 22 where do these demonic powers currently reside?

If we are seated with Christ in the heavenlies, how much power does Satan have over us?

Now please read verses 22 and 23 once more.

What word picture does Paul use to describe Christ and the Church?

From this word picture, what can you infer about how the church is supposed to work?

Bodies do work. We are to be the hands, the feet, the arms, the ears, the eyes, the heart of Jesus to a dying desperate world.

We are:

His hands ... to help the hurting,
His arms ... to hold the suffering,
His feet ... to take truth to all nations,
His eyes ... to see the wounded,
His ears ... to hear the cry of the poor,
His heart ... to love the lost.

Every part of the body is important. In order for the body to be healthy, every part must fulfill its function.

What actions do you need to take in order to walk according to the message of Ephesians 1:15-23?

In closing, God did not make us statues or trophies—they just sit on shelves and collect dust. God made us the body of Christ because we are to *do, serve, minister* and *sacrifice* for others while upon this earth. In order to walk like an Ephesian, we must act as the body of Christ.

By Mary Kane
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