

A TEMPLATE FOR PRAYER

Timely Prayers For Turbulent Times – Eph 1:15-19a Pastor Rob Willey- Coram Deo Bible Church- 3/22/2020

The church is you. The church is us.

Ephesians 1:15-19a is a timely prayer for our turbulent times. A template for how to pray for one another, and how to prayer for ourselves.

1. Thank God for one another. (v15-16a)

One of the silver linings of this sequestering and separation, is that it makes us thankful for one another. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

- **Thank God for one another's faith.** Their *faith in the Lord Jesus*, v15. Their faith that perseveres in turbulent times. Their faith that trusts in the midst of uncertainty. Their faith that shows no matter what.
- **Thank God for one another's love.** Their *love toward all the saints*. Their *heart* for their brothers and sisters in Christ. Here *and* around the world.

2. Pray for wisdom to live for God. (v16b-17)

What Paul prays, is that God would give the Ephesian believers *wisdom* and *revelation* to live for him. Discernment and insight.

Knowledge of a person, when used in the Bible, doesn't just mean knowing *information* about them, but *knowing* them. Up close. And living accordingly.

As the Father gives, and we glean, more and more wisdom and insight, in the context of our relationship with him, we're all the more able and inclined to live for him.

- Pray for greater insight into his Word. Pray for greater knowledge of his ways.
- Pray for the right thoughts at the right time.
- Pray for it in your own life, and pray for it in others.

3. Pray for a greater ability to know and perceive the things of God. (v18a)

"The eyes of your heart" refers to your ability to know and perceive

unseen things; spiritual things; things of God.

- Pray for such an exposure to the light, to the things of God, that exposure to the darkness leaves you blind.
- Pray for a greater ability to know and perceive *spiritual* things. And a greater inclination to focus on them.
- Pray for a greater sensitivity to the light, to things above, instead of darkness in things below.

4. Pray for the confident expectation of life to the full and life forever. (v18)

What is the *hope* to which God has called us?

Life to the full and life forever. Just like Jesus said in John 10:10 – *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly*. To the full.

- Life in the Spirit. Life with purpose.
- Life filled with love, joy, peace, and hope.
- Life that's free of sin's consequences and free of guilt.
- **And life forever.** Eternal life. It's our inheritance. A place in heaven, and the life to enjoy it, forever and ever. In Christ, it's ours. Promised and sealed.

Biblical hope is the anticipation of something certain. The confident expectation of things to come; things promised by God. In this case, life to the full and life forever.

- Pray for a confident expectation of life to the full *now*, and life forever *later*.
- Pray for those without hope, and see if God doesn't prompt you to help them – to share *your* confident expectation.

5. Pray for the blessings of life in community. (v18b)

Paul wants us to not only experience the riches of our inheritance in *heaven*, but the riches of our inheritance *in the saints*. In the church. Here on earth.

The blessings of fellowship, partnership, friendship, encouragement, support, truth, sharpening, you name it.

So come. And experience the blessings of life in community.

And *pray* with us for even more. Even more *blessings*, and even more to experience them.

And while the separation of this pandemic lasts, let's pray that God pours out an *extra* measure of his blessing. Despite our separation.

And that our glorious inheritance would *overflow* when we're reunited.

6. Pray for the power of God in our lives. (v19a)

We can't even begin to get our minds around the power of God.

The power that created the heavens and the earth with mere words. (Gen 1)

The power that *upholds the universe by the word of his power.* (Heb 1:3)

The power that holds all things together. (Col 1:17)

The power that forms us in the womb. (Ps 139:13)

The power that parted the Red Sea. The power that conceived a child in a virgin.

The power that raised Jesus from the dead. The power that lifted him heavenward.

The power that protects us from Satan.

And the power to save us from an eternity in hell.

God's power is directed to *us*, loved ones. At work in *us*. Available to *us*.

Once again, it's not an intellectual thing, but an *experiential* thing.

- Pray for it in your own life, and pray for it in others.
- Pray for the power of *God* in our lives. Our lives individually, and our life as a church.
- Pray to see it, experience it, and apply it.
- Pray that we would seek it every day.
- Pray that we would *open* ourselves to it more and more.
- Pray that it would course through our lives like a rushing torrent.
- Pray that it would light our church with a brilliance that's blinding.
- Pray that it would steel us against the lure of temptation, God's power.
- Pray that it would compensate for our perpetual weakness.
- Pray that we would apply it to hold our tongue. Or speak the truth.
- Pray that we would tap it love the unlovable and bless our enemies.
- Pray for that we would employ it to parent our kids and disciple them in the Lord.