

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, October 7th, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
5. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ,
that every thought, word, and deed may be acceptable to you,
our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

—based on Psalm 19:14

// Call to Worship //

Leader: With joy we praise you, gracious God,
for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image,
and kept covenant with us – even when we fell into sin.
You invite us to the cross even in the midst of our brokenness.
In the work of Your Son Jesus You give us life, redeeming and restoring your image in us.

Congregation: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Leader: Therefore we join our voices with the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name.

- based on a reading from the Worship Sourcebook

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: God of birth, God of joy, God of life,
we come to you as a people hungry for good news.
We have been so dead to miracles
that we have missed the world's rebirth.

Congregation: We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us.

Leader: We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life you set among us.

Congregation: Forgive us, gracious God.

Leader: Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Romans 8:35,38-39

// Passing of the Peace //

Jesus has restored us back to God. God's righteous anger has been replaced by love and peace. As people who are thankful and amazed that we have peace with the God of the universe, let's take a moment to bless each other with that peace by greeting one another here this morning

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon- Regrets and the Gospel, Acts 15:36-41

// Benediction //

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always.

—based on Philippians 4:7

Congregation: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

God, still our hearts this morning.

May we hear from you

May we be in awe of you

And may we be more attune to your love for us. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his hosts!
Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
Let them praise the name of the Lord!
For he commanded and they were created.
-from [Psalm 148](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For failing you by what we do, and think and say;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

// Assurance of Pardon //

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us.

-Ephesians 1:7-8

// Passing of the Peace //

If you know the story of God you know that in the garden Adam and Eve's sin ruined the peace we had with God. But the good news of the gospel is that Jesus received the war of God and brought us Peace. As people who find their hope in that story let's enjoy the peace we have with God and each other by greeting one another here this morning.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon: Paul's Prayer for Us, Ephesians 1:15-23

// Benediction //

Leader: As you go from this place remember this: Jesus has all authority over everything, both this week and forevermore. Go in the peace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Scripture to Meditate On:

Ephesians 1:18–19

...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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 34

Q. Why do you call him “our Lord”?

A. Because—

not with gold or silver,
but with his precious blood¹ —
he has set us free
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,²
and has bought us,
body and soul,
to be his very own.³

¹ 1 Pet. 1:18-19

² Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 2:14-15

³ 1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Tim. 2:5-6

This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:

The Communion of Saints

All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by His Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His grace, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other’s gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

(Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 26, Section 1)

Reflection Questions:

- In our *Prayer of Confession* we asked God to forgive us for “turning away from him, and ignoring his will for our lives”. What is God’s will for our life together as a church? How do we know God’s will for us individually? How have you ignored God’s will for you throughout your life? What about more recently?
- This week Pastor Ryan encouraged us to reflect on what God has done for us in Christ. Set aside 15-30 minutes to do that this week. Take a walk, go to the park at lunch, or just plan a time when you can be alone at home and consider this question: How did the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus benefit me? Just allow yourself to think upon it, let the thoughts come into your mind, and the ones that are about other subjects, just let them pass by, or take a moment to consider them, maybe God is making a connection that you ought to consider. But don't get frustrated that the time is not “productive”. That's not the idea. The idea is to practice reflection on the gospel. You're not being graded, you're spending time with Jesus. Enjoy it! ;)

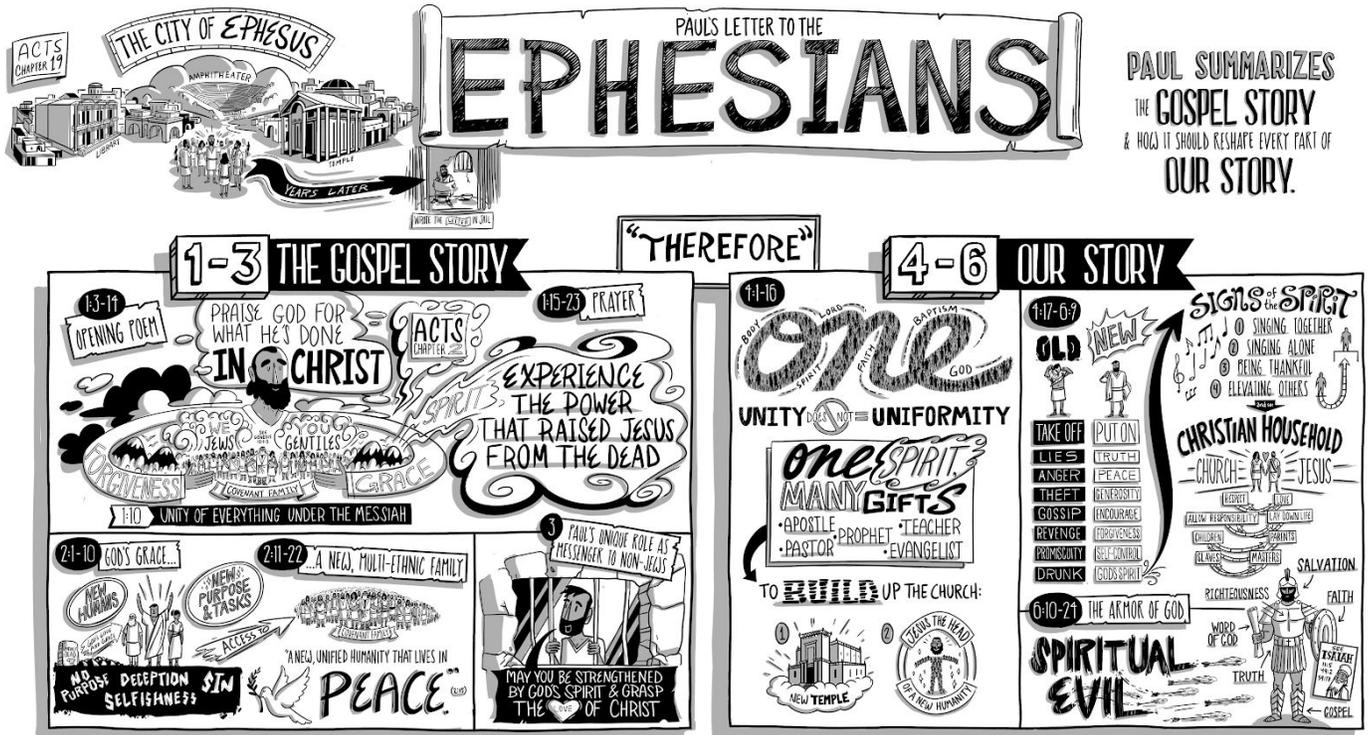
Ephesians Series Resources we encourage you to grab on Sunday:

[Ephesians Scripture Journal](#) (available on Sundays for \$2)

[Alive in Him](#) by Gloria Furman (available on Sundays for \$5) and accompanying [Study Guide](#) and

Ephesians Resources from Bible Project: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ephesians/>

[The book of Ephesians in one graphic:](#) (provided by the Bible Project)



created by the Bible Project

Suggested Resources from last week

Devotional: [Abiding in Christ](#) by Steve Brown

Articles: [Jesus Loves Me, This I Know](#) by Bonnie Petroschuk
[5-Step Strategy for Prayer](#) by Derek Thomas

Podcast: [Prayer for Power](#) by Bible Project

Video: [Helping Your People Discover the Praying Life](#) by Paul Miller

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

2-minute Video (because we know that's all the time you have) ;)

[Gospel Principles for Parenting: Rest](#) with Paul Tripp

Get the New City Catechism App: <http://newcitycatechism.com/mobile-apps/>

[New City Catechism Question 39](#)

Q: What is prayer?

A: Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God in praise, petition, confession of sin, and thanksgiving.

[New City Catechism Question 52](#)

Q: What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

It reminds us that this present fallen world is not all there is; soon we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new city, in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be fully and forever freed from all sin and will inhabit renewed, resurrection bodies in a renewed, restored creation.

FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

Read Ephesians 1:16-19 together

Ephesians 1:16–19

[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.

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- What do you think it means to have “the eyes of your heart enlightened”? How do you think the eyes of our hearts can become “enlightened”?
- What “hope” does God provide us?
- What are you really excited about for our eternal life with God?
- If God was a superhero what would his name be? (trying to get them to think about God’s powerful redeeming work for us... hopefully this question doesn't get you off track) ;)
- How do we know God has amazing power? What do we as a family need God’s power for?

Prayer

Father, we thank you for Jesus. We also thank you for the Holy Spirit. Remind us that you are always with us and we can talk to you all day long. We thank you for all that we have because of Jesus. We know that because of Jesus we’ll be with you for eternity, and we are really excited about that! Give us more and more love and thankfulness in our hearts for you. And help us to continue to understand what it means that we have your immeasurably great power with us. Thank you for our family and for our church. Amen.

Sermon Review ([back to table of contents](#))

Title: Paul's Prayer for Us

Text: Ephesians 1:15-23

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/pauls-prayer-for-us/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Summary: WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US IN CHRIST, BY HIS SPIRIT, IS WORTH A LIFETIME OF REFLECTION

Paul has been caught up in describing all that we have “in Christ” and now he turns to pray that the amazing knowledge of what God has done for us in Christ would work it's way into our hearts and give us great joy.

He prays that God would give these Ephesian believers revelation in the knowledge of himself. Consider that for a minute, because he is speaking to people who know that Jesus is the messiah, that he has come and lived, died, and resurrected to save them. And yet, Paul prays that they would have *revelation* in the knowledge of God. You might think, “Is there more revelation than that!?” And you would be right, there isn't more, but there is deeper. Paul wants the depth with which he has come to understand the work of Jesus Christ for the church to be theirs as well. And how did Paul get this? It was revealed to him by God. It was given to him. “God please do that for these also!” is Paul's prayer.

This is more than mere cerebral knowledge, however, this is about having the “eyes of your heart enlightened.” It's not about moving on from the work of Jesus for us, to other things. Rather, it's continuing to stay right there and consider it more deeply. In other words, we don't move on! The work of Christ is all there is. Don't move on to bigger things, there is nothing bigger, more amazing, or more helpful for you to grasp. The gospel is all there is. Paul is praying that we would not just *know* it, but that we would *behold* it! His hope is that this gospel would spark our affections for the God who would do something so amazing for us.

Paul mentions 3 things we have that we need to behold-
HOPE

This is not hope like “wishful thinking” but rather defined as “the the assurance of the reality of what we have not yet fully experienced.” Our hope is not one that has any lack of assurance in it, there is nothing left to chance, for it is all in the finished work of Christ. We haven't experienced it all yet, but one day, we will because of him!

INHERITANCE

The inheritance Paul speaks of is quite amazing. The reason is because he is describing the church (“saints”) as the inheritance of God. In other words, we are the beloved inheritance of God. Can you imagine that? God has done all that he has done, ever piece of it, so that he could have us as his people. His joy is to spend eternity with us- He enjoying us and we enjoying him. What an amazing thought. Like a parent that gets such joy from seeing her children playing together or in loving relationship with one another, our God's joy is us.

POWER

For some reason we are infatuated with super heros. Amazing displays of power capture us. Perhaps that was built in by God to lead us to desire the power we have in Christ. As the Holy Spirit dwells within us we have the power of God within us. And it's not just the “power of God”, Paul describes it as the

“immeasurable greatness of his power”. He is telling us this power that is ours in Christ is immeasurable, it's out of this world. There is no scale to measure it, the only picture you need of it is this: it is the power that raised Jesus from the dead.

Allow yourself to be in awe of our great God who loves us with such an unending love. The call of this text is to sit and consider all that we have in Christ and ask God to give us more and more illumination in our hearts to the beauty and majesty of the gospel. May your heart be filled with joy, gratitude, and worship. Amen.