

Praying that Enlightened Ones Would Comprehend the Revealed Word (Eph 1:15-23)

Water of Life

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REVIEW

OUTLINE OF EPHESIANS: 4:1-3 summarizes chapters 4–6; 4:4-6 summarizes chapters 1–3

1:15f [Based on the Father preparing, the Son acquiring & the Spirit protecting the inheritance (1:3-14)] Paul continues thankfully praying for the Ephesians, because of their faith and love

A. 1:15a Therefore = [Based on 1:3–14]]

C. 1:16 Paul continues thanking God for the Ephesians in prayer

B. 1:15b [Paul continues thanking God] because of their faith in Christ and love for all saints

1:17 [Paul continually prays] that the Spirit would teach them about Christ (thru the revealed word)

Should it be spirit or Spirit? Observe the Trinitarian formulae in Ephesians:

1:3–14 (F-S-S);

2:18 (F-S-S);

3:14–17 (F-S-S); and

4:4-6 (F-S-S). I capitalize Spirit in 1:17. I found seven (or eight) others that do so.

This would not mean that the Holy Spirit is given to believers a second time, would it? Ephesians 3:16 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 _____

Revelation: a technical term? Yes (when linked w/ God); many over-refine definitions

Cf. Matthew 16:17. An exegetical clue: How Paul's prayers fit within his books

1:18a [Paul prays for the Spirit to teach them about Christ (through the revealed word)] because they were already enlightened

NASB mistranslation (among 19): I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened

NKJV is unclear (among 13): the eyes of your understanding being enlightened

Preferable rendering (in two): the eyes of your understanding have been enlightened

Have been enlightened is a perfect participle; its action precedes the main verb

Thus: Paul prays that (since the Ephesians have already been enlightened) God would....

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 had been enlightened

1:18b-23 [Paul prays that these already enlightened believers] would know (1) what expectation His calling entails, (2) the glorious riches that He bequeaths to the Church, (3) that God uses His same omnipotent power for believers that He used in raising Christ from the dead and in seating Him above all angels (both now and in the Kingdom) and in giving Him headship over the Church (which receives its fullness by Christ doing the filling of it)

Paul wants them to know three things: What, what, and what (1:18b)

He wants them to know what expectation His calling entails (1:18c)

He wants them to know the glorious riches that He bequeaths to the Church (1:18d)

He wants them to know that God uses His same omnipotent power for believers that He used in raising Christ from the dead and in seating Him above all angels (both now and in the Kingdom) and in giving Him headship over the Church (which receives its fullness by Christ doing the filling of it) (1:19-23)

CONCLUSION

