

## Sermon Study Notes 17 Jan '16 Ephesians 1:13-23 "Thankful Prayer"

Starting a new year with confidence and hope, not in ourselves, but in the love and power of God, and our faith in Jesus.

### Us in Christ Jesus

**1:13** *"And you were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promise of the Holy Spirit."*

**The result of hearing and believing:** included in Christ (1:13), saved (1:13), marked with a seal, the Holy Spirit (1:13), God's possession (1:14).

- God calls us to hear his voice and believe.

**Reflect:** How long has it been since I first heard the gospel of Jesus?

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What is my experience of moving from hearing to believing in Jesus?

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### Thankful Prayer

**1:16** *"... I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers."*

- Prayerful thanks for other's faith in Jesus, and love for each other (1:15).

**Reflect:** How can I establish a pattern of praying for others?

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**Idea:** take time to pray for myself ...

- Prayerful asking for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so I can know him better (1:17); the eyes of my heart enlightened to know the hope, the riches of his glorious inheritance (1:18); and to know his resurrection power (1:19,20).

### **3. The Body of Christ**

**1:22,23** *"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body ..."*

The church becomes transformed into God's image, so that believers become more like Jesus Christ and represent him to the world.

**Reflect:** What are my thoughts and resulting actions from that statement?

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