

## PRAYING TO A SOVEREIGN GOD

### Ephesians 1:15-23 (Isaiah 40:21-31)

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*List all the different reasons you can think of that people might pray (e.g. thankfulness, fear). Are some of them better than others? And why?*

#### READ Ephesians 1:15-16

1. What is the reason that Paul gives for his constant prayerfulness for the Ephesian church (c.f. vv. 3-14)? How does a deep grasp of God's sovereignty (authority, rule) drive us to prayer?

#### READ Ephesians 1:17-19a

2. What are the two things that a knowledge of God's sovereignty prompts Paul to pray for? What part does "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation" play in the first of these (v. 17)? And how is this experienced in practice?
3. What might it mean for "the eyes of our hearts to be enlightened" (v. 18)? What are the three specific truths about God that this enlightenment allows?
  - Truth 1 –
  - Truth 2 –
  - Truth 3 –

Consider each in turn, thinking through the possible implications of knowing these truths more deeply.

#### READ Ephesians 1:19b-23

4. What are the three specific events that Paul says God's "incomparably great power" (v. 19a) is like?

Event 1 –

Event 2 –

Event 3 –

Of what relevance is this extended description of God's power for our prayer lives?

5. God has chosen to "mediate" his sovereign rule through Christ (c.f. Psa 110:1, 1 Cor. 15:27)? What might it mean for the church to be "the fulness of him who fills everything in every way" (v. 23)? How does this reality inform and inspire an increasing spirit of prayerfulness amongst us?

**APPLICATION:** How will a better knowledge of the sovereignty of God impact how and why you pray this week?

*Keep praying for an increasing spirit of prayerfulness amongst us ...*