

God's Glorious Grace

Ephesians 1:15-23

Prayer for Opened Eyes

The Blue Whale

- The largest animal that ever lived...
- with the loudest voice on earth!
 - very low frequency, beneath what we can normally perceive.
 - the sound travels all the way across the ocean ***but our ears are not sensitive enough to hear it without special assistance!***



Bringing the text to light & life

- **Paul Prays!** (vs. 15,16)

For this reason...

- Profoundly experienced truth leads naturally to profoundly rich prayer!
- Truth → Praise
Doctrines → Doxology

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For this reason...

- Profoundly experienced truth leads naturally to profoundly rich prayer!
- Truth → Praise → Prayer
Doctrines → Doxology → Petition
- Perhaps we do it backwards!
- See the pattern of the Lord's prayer (Matt 6:7 ff.)
- Perhaps the superficiality of our prayer life reflects the superficiality of our experience of the truth?
- Those who know God the way Paul did will be those who pray Paul the way Paul prayed!

Bringing the text to light & life

- **Paul Prays** (vs. 15,16)
- **For Opened Eyes** (vs. 17-23)
 - **Spiritual Enlightenment** – vs. 17,18
 - Imparted by the Holy Spirit
 - See I Cor 2:6-16
Spiritual (in)sight is given by the Spirit to those who are spiritual – i.e. those who have the Spirit!
 - See II Cor 4:3-6
Without God's work within us to remove the spiritual blindness, we cannot see the light.

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 - **Spiritual Enlightenment** – vs. 17,18
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 - A new heart – the soul's spiritual center
 - The basic 'bent' or 'inclination' at the core of our being, the well-spring of thoughts, actions, behavior. See Prov 4:23; Matt 12:34,35; 15:19
 - It is made new when we come to faith
Ez 11:19,20; 36:25-27; Jer 31:31ff.

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- **For Opened Eyes** (vs. 17-23)
 - **Spiritual Enlightenment** – vs. 17,18
 - Imparted by the Holy Spirit
 - A new heart – the soul's spiritual center
 - Opened eyes – may they see more clearly!

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- **Paul Prays** (vs. 15,16)
- **For Opened Eyes** (vs. 17-23)
 - **Spiritual Enlightenment** – vs. 17,18
 - **Ever Deepening Perception** – vs. 18-23
 - The hope of His calling
 - The riches of His inheritance
 - The greatness of His power
 - The exalted fullness of Christ's glorious person...

Bringing the text to light & life

- **Paul Prays** (vs. 15,16)
- **For Opened Eyes** (vs. 17-23)
- **So what do we do with this?**
 - It all begins with the new birth, new nature, new heart, new eyes!
 - Then, having eyes to see, we pray:
Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord!