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Paul's Prayer for the Churches of Asia

Introduction

Paul was a man of deep conviction and fervent, constant prayer for those who lives he touched. Every book Paul wrote opens with prayer with the exception of Titus and Philemon, see Rom 1:8; 1 Cor 1:4; 2 Cor 1:3; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:15; Phil 1:3; Col 1:3; ; 1 Thess 1:2; 2 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:12; 2:1; 2 Tim 1:3. This letter to the Ephesians was a circular letter that was read in all the churches of Asia. Paul's prayers were not limited to the Ephesian Church alone but encompassed all the churches of Asia and beyond. There are at least eight elements of this great prayer as follows.

1. Paul offers a prayer of thanks to God for their faith, 1:15a
2. Paul offers thanks God for their love and cooperation, 1:15b
3. Paul promised consistent prayer on their behalf, 1:16
4. Paul's prayer to God was Christ centered, 1:17a
5. Paul's prayer was for their wisdom and knowledge, 1:17b
6. Paul's prayer was for spiritual discernment, 1:18a
7. Paul's prayer included their realization of his hope for them, 1:18b
8. Paul's prayer included receiving their spiritual inheritance, 1:18c
9. Paul's Prayer was for all aspects of Christ's power in them, 1:19-21
 - a. The dimension of Christ's power, 19b
 - b. The demonstration of Christ's power, 20a
 - c. The source of Christ's power, 20b
 - d. The scope of Christ's power, 21a
 - e. The authority of Christ's power, 21b
 - f. The fullness of God's power in Christ, 22-23
10. Paul's prayer included his hope for the fullness of God's power, 1:22-23

