

# Prayer of Thanksgiving

(Ephesians 1:15-17)



# 1 Peter 1:2 & 3

<sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,



# Blessings “In Christ”

1. In Christ you were given grace before the world was created. **(2 Timothy 1:9)**
2. In Christ you were chosen by God before creation. **(Ephesians 1:4)**
3. In Christ you are loved by God with an inseparable love. **(Romans 8:38–39)**
4. In Christ you were redeemed and forgiven for all your sins. **(Ephesians 1:7)**
5. In Christ you are justified before God and the righteousness of God in Christ is imputed to you. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**
6. In Christ you have become a new creation and a son of God. **(Galatians 3:26)**
7. In Christ you have been seated in the heavenly places even while he lived on earth. **(Ephesians 2:6)**
8. In Christ all the promises of God are Yes for you. **(2 Corinthians 1:20)**
9. In Christ you are being sanctified and made holy. **(1 Corinthians 1:2)**
10. In Christ everything you really need will be supplied. **(Philippians 4:19)**
11. In Christ the peace of God will guard your heart and mind. **(Philippians 4:7)**
12. In Christ you have eternal life. **(Romans 6:23)**
13. In Christ you will be raised from the dead at the coming of the Lord. **(1 Corinthians 15:22)**





**William Randolph Hearst**  
(1863 – 1951)

1) Ceaseless praise.



# I) Ceaseless praise.

(For)

- Sovereign grace.



# I) Ceaseless praise.

(For)

- Sovereign grace.
- Evident faith.



## John 3:36

<sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”



# Colossians 1:28

<sup>28</sup> We proclaim Him,  
admonishing every man and  
teaching every man with all  
wisdom, so that we may  
present every man  
complete in Christ.



# I) Ceaseless praise.

(For)

- Sovereign grace.
- Evident faith.
- Genuine love (for all).



John 13:35

<sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”



# I John 3:14 & 16

<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.



# ἀγάπη in the Church

- Indiscriminate



## ἀγάπη in the Church

- Indiscriminate
- Involvement



## ἀγάπη in the Church

- Indiscriminate
- Involvement
- Tolerance



# Revelation 2:2-4

<sup>2</sup> 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; <sup>3</sup> and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. <sup>4</sup> But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.



# 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8

<sup>22</sup> Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

<sup>8</sup> Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.



# Colossians 1:4

<sup>4</sup> since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;



# I Thessalonians 1:3

<sup>3</sup> constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,



## II Thessalonians 1:3

<sup>3</sup> We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater;



# Philemon 4 & 5

<sup>4</sup> I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,  
<sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;



# Colossians 1:9

<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,



# I Thessalonians 1:2

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers;



## II Timothy 1:3

<sup>3</sup> I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,



# Romans 1:9-10

<sup>9</sup> For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you, <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.



I Thessalonians 5:17

**17 pray without ceasing;**



## II) Specific Petition





“Those who know God have four characteristics: great energy for God, great thoughts of God, great boldness for God, and great contentment in God.”

- J.I. Packer (Knowing God)

“I cannot understand who or what I am without understanding who or what God is. There is a mutual dependence between our knowledge of ourselves and our knowledge of God. The study of mankind is a subdivision of theology, the study of God. The crisis of humanity is when our story is told in isolation or divorced from the story of God....if we are not creatures made by and related to God, we are cosmic accidents. Our origin is insignificant and our destiny equally insignificant...to be created by God is to be related to God.” – R.C. Sproul



ἐπιγινώσκω –

A fullness of knowledge





“The function of the prepositional prefix ἐπι, is to intensify and hence it indicates a larger and more thorough knowledge.”

- J.B. Lightfoot



## II) Specific Petition

- Growing Knowledge of God.



# Getting Started

- Only through the Son



## Getting Started

- Only through the Son
- Only by Self-Revelation



## Getting Started

- Only through the Son
- Only by Self-Revelation
- Only with Desire



# Psalm 119:18

<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, that I may  
behold Wonderful things from  
Your law.



# Jeremiah 9:23-24

<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;  
<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD.

