

Introduction:**I. The Context and Reason of Paul's Prayer for Others****A. Thankful for a Sovereign God... vs. 3-14****B. Thankful for the gracious work of the Sovereign God upon other Christians....**

1. Their faith...
2. Their love...

C. He knows the source of their faith and love...**II. The Way in Which Paul Prayed for Others...**

He was sincere, fervent and constant...

Romans 1:8ff; I Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1:3ff; Colossians 1:3; I Thessalonians 1:2; II Thessalonians 1:3; Philemon 4

III. The Essence of What Paul Prayed for Others...**A. He prayed primarily for wisdom...**

1. The knowledge of God...
2. The significance of the spiritual blessings we have in Christ....
3. That they might know God better...

B. "The Spirit of wisdom..." vs. 17b-18a...A reference to the Holy Spirit... *John 15:26; I Corinthians 2:10ff***Lesson:** Paul's prayer is so contrary to the leading man-centered philosophies of our day...**C. Paul Prays that they might know...**

3. The immeasurable greatness of His power...

a. It is toward us...

b. It is clearly revealed in:

1. Christ's Resurrection from the dead... *Philippians 3:10*2. Christ's Exaltation to God's right hand... *Colossians 1:16; Philippians 2:6-11 cf. Ephesians 2:1-6*3. Christ's Power over Everything...for the church... *I Corinthians 15:27 cf. Psalm 110:1***Application:** Why is it vital we understand this power of God toward us?1. It emphasizes our responsibility... *II Timothy 3:5*2. For our security... *Romans 8:28ff*

3. It feeds our joy...