



## **Lesson 4: The Blessing of Prayer**

**Text: Ephesians 1:15-23**

Key Thought: Praying for others is both priceless & powerful.

Pastor's Bible study will focus on the content of Paul's prayer found in our text. This study will, instead, focus on Paul's prayer requests for himself found in the scriptures.

1. What is your normal response/reaction when someone asks you to pray for them? What do you typically think, say, and do?

**A.**

In your experience, what are the leading reasons why people ask others to pray on their behalf?

**A.**

2. For many, if not most of us, our first reaction is not to immediately pray with/for them. Why don't we? Why should we if possible?

**A.**

3. What did Paul experience as a result of preaching the gospel and planting churches? (*2 Corinthians 11:23-28*)

**A.**

4. What was Paul's motive for sharing these things? (*2 Corinthians 11:29-31*)

**A.**

5. What prayer request(s) does Paul make in each of the following passages...

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2?

**A.**

Colossians 4:2-4?

**A.**

Philippians 1:19-20?

**A.**

6. Perhaps the most familiar passage addressing his requests is Romans 15:30-32. Here Paul makes several requests, including that he be delivered from evil people who wanted to shut him up! He requested that the believers "strive together with me" in prayers. In the Greek, those words are one compound word which means to struggle in company with, to fight or contend with an adversary. Based on his word usage, how aware was Paul of the spiritual battle he faced because he lived for Christ and preached the gospel?

**A.**

7. Based on Paul's requests what conclusion can we draw about the importance of praying for one another, including and especially our spiritual leaders?

**A.**

8. Knowing the seriousness of the matter, what concrete steps will you take to make praying for others more of a priority?

**A.**