

Gamma 11

Study 4

Ephesians 1:15-23

Section A (Exegetical Questions)

1. What is Paul thankful for the Ephesians about in verse 15?
2. What does Paul mean in his prayer when he refers to the eyes of our hearts? What is he trying to convey?
3. What are the three prayer requests for the Ephesians
4. What does the phrase “Ephesians 4:21a ..”all rule and authority and power and dominion” refer to ? Are there other powers? How does this knowledge of the position of Christ help
5. How does the placement of Jesus as the head of all things benefit the church ? Ephesians 1:22-23 (ESV) And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body,

Section B

Reflection Questions

1. How will the answering of Paul’s three prayer requests affect your own life? Do you think you could regularly incorporate these requests in your daily prayer?
2. Have you ever had a sense of God’s power in your life? How did it affect you can you share this with the group?
3. How do you feel now that you know that there are other “ powers, authorities and dominions” in the spiritual world unseen to us? How does the awareness of Jesus power help us practically in this dimension of spiritual warfare?

4. **How does the doctrine of common grace practically in society and can you see how the misunderstanding of this doctrine has affected every day life in our society and in politics?**

Section C

Case history

In the up coming general elections suppose there are three candidates contending for the Parliamentary seat of Subang Jaya

Candidate A is an honest politician from what most people can see but comes from a religious party and intent on working to impose elements of his religion into his governing notwithstanding the fact that the community is a multiracial and multi-religious one. Candidate B is a Christian business man who has had a chequered history of success as well as several bankruptcies. The local church leaders have endorsed him because he said that he is a “born again Christian”. He is unfortunately brash , outspoken tending to denigrate his opponents. He is always right and never wrong. He tends to be less than truthful. He has had several accusations from women for sexual harassment. He has never admitted it though. He promises to open up more places of worship for the Christian community and fight for Christian issues. The Christian leaders that have been supporting him have admitted that he is a flawed candidate but people should show grace and every one deserves a second chance and we should look at what he can achieve for the church. Candidate C was a former Naval officer who was unrighteously dismissed from the Navy when he blew the whistle on corruption in the process of awarding tenders for work done in the naval yard. He spent time in jail for breaching the official secrets act. He is an able administrator , a fair minded person and a family man but not a Christian but not an extremist in his own religion. He is not very supportive of Christian issues and will not support the opening up of more places of worship for Christians.

1. **Which candidate should be given your top priority in the voting process?**
2. **How did you come to your position and why?**
3. **Do you think he is actually preaching the gospel**
4. **In the long run what are the risks to the spiritual lives of the members who attended this church?**