Recap of 10/25/26 message by Steve Plank
("Go God Go: Yay Church") Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul starts by saying that he has heard of the faith of the Ephesian church. It is through faith that we are saved (Ep 2:8, Ro 10:8-9, He 11:6). He has also heard of their love or other believers. Love is the evidence, the proof of our salvation (Jn 13:35, 1 Jn 3:14, 1 Jn 4:19-21). Paul does not stop giving thanks for their faith and love and prays for them regularly. Are we grateful for other believers; of other churches in other locations? Do we pray for them often?

Paul encourages and excites us by emphasizing our position in Christ and his preeminence in this prayer for believers. It is an excellent model of prayer for us to follow when we pray for other believers, those we know and those we don't. Paul prays them closer to God. He asks that they **KNOW** Him, the hope of His calling, their assured inheritance in glory as fellow heirs with Christ, and His power available to them for living in Christ. This knowing is not superficial head knowledge; it is absolute conviction that permeates our entire being and guides our actions. When this knowledge takes hold of us, it frees us from worry and doubt in the midst of life's strife. We live with eternity in mind; not relishing the struggle, but persevering because we understand the glory that awaits (Ro 8:16-18).

Finally, as Paul reminds us of Christ's magnificence in this age and the age to come, he reminds us that Jesus, the one who is above all, is given to the church, His body, and that the church is the fulness of Christ even as He fills the church. In other words, we are not experiencing the fulness Jesus has for us unless we are actively participating in body (church) life. It is through the church that God completes much of His work in this world and in us. Living in community with other believers is one of the ways we transform into Christlikeness.