

PREPARING FOR YOUR PRESENTATION

Ephesians 1:15-16

Paul's Concern for the Ephesian Church

Paul's Reason for Thankfulness: 2 Wonderful Truths

Their maturing _____ in the Lord Jesus

- ♦ Ongoing trust in the _____ about Jesus (*1:15, "the faith"*)
- ♦ Deepening daily trust in Jesus as the _____ of their life (*1:15; Mt. 28:20*)
- ♦ Real faith always results in _____ behavior and thinking (*Jas. 2:17, 22*)

Their maturing _____ for others

- ♦ "Love" = "agape" (*1:15, Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 3:16*)

- ♦ Love = the keystone Christ-like quality (*Gal. 5:22-23*)

Paul's Purpose: to Prepare People for a Pure Presentation

Paul's understanding of his God-given ministry

- ♦ To _____ Christ and His Word (*Col. 1:25, 28*)
- ♦ To _____ everyone mature in Christ (*Col. 1:28; 2 Thes. 1:3; 2 Cor. 11:2*)

The coming presentation: The _____ of the Lamb
(*Rev. 19:6-8; Eph. 5:25-27*)

Applying the Bible to Life

- God, in His Word, compares your relationship with Jesus to the relationship between a bride and groom. What does that imply for your relationship to Jesus?
- Think through all that a bride does to get ready for her wedding. What do you, as the "bride of Christ," need to do now to prepare yourself? What should you stop doing? What should you start doing? How should your thinking change?