

Section II.

The Apostle's Prayer for the Saints, Chap. 2:15-23.

HAVING given utterance to the great truths of the preceding section, the apostle pauses to record the prayer which naturally rises in his heart for the saints in view of these things. The prayers of Paul for the various churches to which he wrote, and the conditions which called for them, offer an interesting and helpful line of study. The immediate cause of this prayer, as he says, was that they had "heard the word of the truth of the Gospel of their salvation," and had believed, and were "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." He knew that the great things of which he had spoken were theirs. He does not, therefore pray for their salvation. But he knew also that it was one thing to believe these things to be true, and quite another thing to have a realizing sense of them in their experience. How conscious we are of this. We assent to the great truths of the Gospel. We do not doubt them, but how little do they impress us. We sometimes wonder that we are not moved by their overwhelming importance. This prayer comes very appropriately at this point to meet this need. Let us join our prayer with it, that it may be answered in us, as we examine its various petitions.