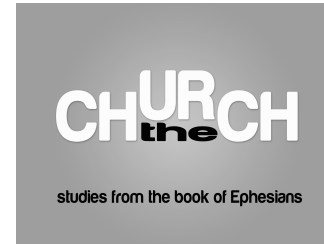


Notes:



Dan Wilvers- November 27th, 2016
Part 3

Grasping For The Greatest Love! Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
This is God's Word

Paul's prays for power through God's Spirit in the Church

I. Why is it important?

- Look at the three things he's asking God for his readers.

First of all, *that Christ would dwell in their hearts by faith.* vs.17

Secondly, *that they would, know this love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.* vs.19a

Thirdly, *that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.* vs.19b

If you read the Book of Ephesians all the way through, you'll know in chapter 2 *Paul already said* all Christians already have Christ dwelling in them. If you go back to chapter 1, it says all Christians by being united with Christ *already have* the fullness of God in them. When he says, "I want you to know the love of Christ," it's just common sense they know that already.

So here's the question. Why is he asking God to give them these things they already have?

There's only one possible answer: *It's one thing to believe in and trust the love of Christ, and it's another thing to experience the love of Christ in your inner being.*

II. What life changing spiritual experience is.

Paul is making 3 petitions:

The first petition is in verse 16, where he says, "*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being ...***"

The *Inner being* is a synonym for heart. The **heart**, according to the Bible, is the control center of the entire personality.

The second petition is to grasp and know.

*"... to **grasp** how high and wide and long and deep is the love of Christ, and to **know** this love." vs.18,19*

third petition. *"That you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*

In the New Testament the term *fullness of God* almost always means a pattern of life, or a fullness of life.

Jesus said, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10.

What Paul is saying is, Here's how you know you haven't just had an emotional experience but you've actually begun to experience the actual love of Christ in your inmost being:

It changes the way you actually live.

III. How do we get it?

A. Continuously Seeking It In Prayer.

This is a prayer for experience:

*He may **strengthen** you with power through his Spirit in your (heart)*

*Christ may **dwell** in your hearts through faith.*

*May have power...to **grasp**... the love of Christ*

*To **know** this love that surpasses knowledge*

*May be **filled** to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

B. Go after it wholeheartedly

"I want you through the power of the Spirit to have power to grasp the love of Christ, how wide and high and long and deep."

C. Do it together as a church

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, **together with all the saints**, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,*

D. Make it Gospel centered

How wide is the love of Christ?

"O Lord Jesus Christ, you have bought us by thy blood for God from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation"? Revelation 5:9

How long is the love of Christ?

the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. Revelation 13:8

How deep is the love of Christ?

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:6,7

How high is Christ's love?

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. John 17:24