

Paul's Prayers For The Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-19

1

- ▶ Paul praying for those receiving the epistles not uncommon. cf. Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12

2

Paul's First Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 1:15-20)

- ▶ That they might know God. (Verse 17 cf. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)
- ▶ That they might know the hope of God's calling. (Verse 18a)
 1. Called by the gospel. 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 2. Called into light. 1 Peter 2:9
 3. Hope. Romans 8:24
- ▶ That they might know the riches of God's inheritance. (Verse 18b; cf. Ephesians 2:12-13)
- ▶ That they might know the power of God. (Verses 19-20)

3

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

- ▶ Begins in verse 1 ... *"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus in behalf of you Gentiles"* -
- ▶ Verse 14 *"For this cause ..."*
 - Salvation by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:1-10)
 - Through the cross, Jews and Gentiles become one. (Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:6)
 - Grandeur of the church. (Ephesians 3:10-11)
 - Boldness, confidence. (Ephesians 3:13)

4

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 14, *"I bow my knees"* Posture in prayer ...

- ▶ Commonly found in Scripture. (cf. Luke 22:41; Acts 9:40; 20:36; 21:5)
- ▶ No official position:
 - Solomon *"stood"* when he prayed to dedicate the temple. (1 Kings 8:22)
 - David *"sat"* before the lord when he prayed about the future of his kingdom. (1 Chronicles 17:16)
 - Jesus *"fell on His face"* when He prayed in Gethsemane. (Matthew 26:39)

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 14, *"Unto the Father."*

- We pray *"to"* the Father (Matthew 6:9), *"in the name of"* Jesus. (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17)
- Humility, honor, praise befitting of our approach to Sovereign Deity.

6

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 15, "From whom every **family** (*patriá*) in heaven and on earth is named" Jew or Gentile. One family, one Father. (Ephesians 2:11-19)

Used in a wider sense as a people, nationality or race (Acts 3:25 in allusion to Genesis 12:3; 1 Chronicles 16:28; Psalms 22:27; 96:7). In Ephesians 3:14-15 we have God presented as "the Father" who has only one (family).

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 16, "That God would grant that they would be strengthened with power ... in the inner man."

- ▶ The same power that raised Jesus from the dead.
- ▶ "Through the Spirit" - Instruction, revelation. (Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16).
 - We have received the Spirit by the hearing of faith. (Galatians 3:2).
 - Note: Romans 8
- ▶ "inner man." Heart, mind - Matthew 15:19; 22:37

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 17, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

- ▶ "Faith" is the instrument through which God dwells in them. cf. Galatians 2:20
- ▶ "Dwell" to house permanently, i.e. reside (literally or figuratively): (Strong)

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 17, That ye "be rooted and grounded in love" (Metaphors from agriculture and architecture)

- ▶ "Rooted" cause to take root; pass.: be rooted or firmly established. cf. Colossians 2:7
- ▶ "Grounded" "to provide with a foundation" (Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament). The sense is figurative in Ephesians 3:17; 1 Peter 5:10, i.e., "to strengthen," "to confirm," (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)
- ▶ "In love" (Agape)

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 18, That you "may be strong to apprehend ... the love of Christ."

- "Breadth" In Eph 3:18 the four different
 - "Length" dimensions of space are used
 - "Height" figuratively in the sense of
 - "depth" 'that which is all-encompassing.'
- (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

Expresses the grandeur of Christ's love!

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

Verse 18, That you "may be strong to apprehend ... the love of Christ."

Verse 19, NOTE: Yet, such love passes (*literally excelling*) knowledge.

- ▶ How is it possible to know the love of Christ, if it passes knowledge?
 - Factual revelation taken to heart. (cf. Ephesians 2:4-5; 5:2; John 15:13; Romans 5:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:14)

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

*Verse 19 "That ye may be filled unto all the **fulness** of God."*

Used of complete measure:

Fulness of God - Ephesians 3:19

Fulness of Christ - Ephesians 4:13

Fulness of the Godhead in Christ - Colossians 1:19

Fulness of him - Ephesians 1:23

Fulness of the Gentiles - Romans 11:25

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Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Verse 16-19 What does Paul pray for?

*Verse 19 "That ye may be filled unto all the **fulness** of God."*

Become more and more like God!

- Partakers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4
- Perfect. Matthew 5:48
- Holy. 1 Peter 1:16
- ▶ Sincerity, love, mercy, kindness, etc. (cf. Ephesians 4:31-32)

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