

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-19

- ◆ Paul praying for those receiving the epistles is not uncommon.
- ◆ Philippians 1:9-11
- ◆ Colossians 1:9-12

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)

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)

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)

Paul's Second Prayer For The Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-21

- Verse 14, *"I bow my knees"* – Posture in prayer ...
- ◆ **Our view of God must not be casual.**
 - ◆ He is the creator of heaven and earth. Genesis 1:1
 - ◆ He caused the sun and the moon to stand still. Joshua 10:12-14
 - ◆ He delivered His people from the hand of the Egyptians with wonders and signs. Exodus 7-14
 - ◆ He raised His Son from the dead. John 20
 - ◆ Psalms 111:9, *"He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: **Holy and awesome is His name.**"* NKJV

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)
 - ◆ God cares for us as a loving father. (Matthew 7:11f).
 - ◆ He supplies our every need (Philippians 4:19) and therefore we understand that every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights (James 1:17).
- ◆ Humility, honor, praise befitting of our approach to Sovereign Deity.
- ◆ Moses hid his face. Exodus 3:6

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

Verse 15, "*From whom every family in heaven and on earth is named*"

- ◆ Jew or Gentile. One family, one Father. (Ephesians 2:18-19; cf. Galatians 3:15ff)

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

Verse 15, "Family" (*patriá*)

"Used in a wider sense as a people, nationality or race (Acts 3:25 in allusion to Gen 12:3; 1 Chron 16:28; Psalms 22:27; 96:7). In Eph 3:14,15 we have God presented as 'the Father' who has only one (family). This indicates the oneness of God's family, both Jews and Gentiles, ... who were all baptized into the body of Christ as is so clearly indicated in Acts chaps. 2; 10; 11; 19 and explained in 1 Cor 12:13. See Ex 6:15,17,19; 1 Sam 9:21." (from The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

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

Verses 16-19 – What does Paul pray for?

Verse 16, "*That he would grant you ... that ye may be strengthened with power ... in the inward man*"

- ◆ "Power" (*dunamai*) which we need is the power of God, the same power which raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20; 6:10; Colossians 1:11).
- ◆ "Inner man." Where our consciences, our wills, live. (cf. Matthew 15:19; 22:37; Philippians 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:5; Proverbs 4:23; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Romans 7:22).

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

Verses 16-19 – What does Paul pray for?

Verse 16, "*That he would grant you ... that ye may be strengthened with power ... in the inward man*"

- ◆ "Through the Spirit" – Instruction, revelation. (1 Corinthians 2:9-13).
- ◆ (Romans 8:9-11; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20).
- ◆ We receive the Spirit by the hearing of faith (Galatians 3:2).

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

◆ Verses 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. Acts 27:25
- ◆ "Dwell" – "to house permanently, i.e. reside (literally or figuratively)" (Strong)
- ◆ Note Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; Galatians 2:20

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

- ◆ Verses 16-19 – What does Paul pray for?
 Verse 17 – That they 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 Eph 3:17; 1 Peter 5:10, i.e., ‘to strengthen,’ ‘to confirm’”
(Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)
 - ◆ “*Love*” (*agape*)

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

Verses 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 dimensions of space are used figuratively in the sense of ‘that which is all-encompassing.’”
- “*Length*”
- “*Height*”
- “*Depth*” (Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain.)

Expresses the grandeur of Christ's love!

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

Verses 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)

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

Verses 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