

Strengthened by the Love of God

September 19th & 20th, 2015

Ephesians 3:14-19

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith — that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Paul is praying for the Ephesians.

- ❖ As Paul is addressing the church in Ephesus, he explains the reasons he prays for them.
- ❖ As Paul is praying, he considers it to be necessary that he describes to the Ephesians how he bows his knees before his Father.
- ❖ We see a level of intensity in his heart for the wellbeing of the church.

Paul’s first request to God is for strength in the Ephesians.

...According to the riches of His glory

- ❖ As we read these verses, we see that the kind of strength that we need comes directly from the riches of God.
- ❖ If we identify and experience the riches of His glory, we see that this is what real wealth looks like.
- ❖ When we say we are successful, are we measuring our successes according to the wealth of God?

...He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

- ❖ The way in which we receive His strength is through His Spirit and it takes place in our inner being.
Romans 5:5 “and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:16 “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”*
- ❖ In the midst of a culture that excessively focuses on the outer appearance, God knows that what we need is inner strength.

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

- ❖ Christ wants to dwell in us.
- ❖ We need Him to live within us.
- ❖ Wherever we go, Christ is in us.

Paul’s second request to God is for the love of God in the Ephesians.

...Being rooted and grounded in love

- ❖ The first thought in this passage about the love of God, is that we need to be rooted and grounded in it.
- ❖ It is good to be rooted and grounded in doctrine, service and knowledge, but to be grounded in God’s love is the strength that will give us stability and confidence.

...May have the strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth

- ❖ The second thought in this passage is that as we experience God's love, we get the strength to comprehend the vast dimension of this love with all the saints.
 - ♦ When we grasp this love of God, we realize that it is...
 - ... Wide enough to embrace all mankind.
 - ... Long enough to last for eternity.
 - ... High enough to take us to heaven.
 - ... Deep enough to reach the most despicable sinner.

John 15:9 "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love."

- ❖ The greatness of God's love is experienced in the body of Christ with all the saints; giving us humility and love for one another.

...and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

- ❖ The third thought in this passage is to know, in an experiential way, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.

Romans 8:15-16 "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"

- ❖ As we grow in the comprehension of God's love, our inner strength in Christ grows giving us victory and strength in Christ to overcome sin and the challenges that we as Christians experience.

***...That you may be filled
with all the fullness of God!***

Endnote:

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