

## **EPHESIANS 3:14-21 PAUL'S LADDER OF PRAYER**

**INTRO: Read Eph. Chapter 3**

### **The Mystery:**

- Vs. 3 "the Mystery."
- Vs. 4 "the Mystery of Christ."
- Vs. 9 "the Fellowship of the Mystery."
- Vs. 6 The Mystery Explained, "Gentiles fellow heirs."
  
- **VS. 1, For this reason. 2:17-22**
- The gospel of peace has now come to both, Jew and Gentile. (17)
- Gentiles joining with the Jews to make up household of God (19)
- Both must be built on Jesus the Corner Stone. (20)
- We are both growing into a holy temple for God's habitation in the Lord Jesus. (21, 22)
- For this reason,
- Vs 7, I was made a minister.
- Vs. 8, That he should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.
- Vs. 10, The church is the outworking, the display of the "manifold revelation of the wisdom of God."
  - Manifold, (much varied, that which is marked with a great variety of colors) **ONLY TIME USED IN THE N.T.**
  - Classic Amplified Version: that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety *and* innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.
- His wisdom is displayed through the church to principalities and powers in the heavenlies. That is the church made up of both Jew and Gentile.
- Vs. 11 This was God's eternal purpose, His very design from eternity.

**Now having laid some back ground we come to the purpose of why I have turned to Ephesians.**

### **The second "For the Reason." Vs. 14**

- Because the mystery has been opened. The mystery is being fulfilled, Jew and Gentile in Christ.
- Paul having received the ministry of reconciling the Gentiles to God.

**Read 14-21** again.

### **THE LADDER OF PRAYER:**

- For this reason I bow my knees to God. (VS14)

- **As we approach this prayer we realize that we are like old Jacob who dreamed a dream of a ladder that extended up to heaven.**
- **A ladder that reached up to God.**
- **This ladder, unlike Jacob's, is not meant for angels, but saints.**
- **Here to we have as it were a ladder that reaches up to God.**
- **Paul prays that we may know and climb this ladder of prayer possessing each and every rung/step.**
- **Standing on each rung/step until we have met with God the Holy Spirit and found through Him, in us the answer of the prayer.**
- **This is the way to overcome in this generation. To live the true life of a Christian, a disciple of the Lord Jesus.**
- **We much mount each rung reaching for the next as the Spirit draws us upward, and reaching the top, there receive the culmination of prayer rungs, "TO BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULNESS OF CHRIST."**
- **The apostles prayer rises on every step till he prays us to the top step, the top rung.**
- **The prayer is such an expression, a prayer promise, which, if it had not been dictated to Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, one would condemn it as blasphemy or heresy.**
- **But the word of God is sure, God breathed, and without error, trustworthy.**
  - **2 Tim. 3:16; All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for <sup>[a]</sup>instruction in righteousness,**
- **May we, by the power of the Holy Spirit today ascend this inspired ladder of prayer and receive that for which it was God breather and promised.**
- **COME HOLY SPIRIT.....**

**We have 6 rungs to climb.**

- 1) Rung #1, "To be Strengthened."
- 2) Rung #2, "That Christ may dwell in our hearts."
- 3) Rung #3, "To be rooted and grounded in love."
- 4) Rung #4, "To receive Divine Comprehension of God."
- 5) Rung #5, "To know the Love of God."
- 6) Rung #6, "To be filled with all the fullness of God."

**1) Rung #1, "To be Strengthened." VS. 16**

- **To be granted.**
- **According to His riches of glory.**
- **To be strengthened. To be made strong.**
  - **strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.**
  - **Isa. 40:29-31 He gives power to the weak....They that wait on the Lord**

- **With might by His Spirit in the inner man.**
  - **2 Cor. 4:16 We do not faint, inner man renewed.**
- **Strength to climb, to pursue.**
- **Strengthened to see the things of God, to see things as He sees them.**
- **Strength to love like Him, to forgive like Him, to forebear, to be longsuffering**
- **Strength to live above negativism and frustration.**
- **Strength to walk in the world in light.**
- **Strength to die to self, to sacrifice.**
- **Strength to put to death the deeds of the flesh**
- **Strength for faith and believing expectation.**
- **Strength to pray. Mt. 26:4, The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."**
- **To just live for Jesus!**

## **2) Rung #2, "That Christ may dwell in our hearts." VS. 17**

- **Dwell: To settle down, to reside permanently.**
- **Notice, by faith. We don't always feel His presence.**
- **Sometimes we have to choose faith.**
- **The just shall live by faith.**
  - **In the secret of His presence how my soul delights to hide  
Oh, how precious are the lessons which I learn at Jesus' side  
Earthly cares forever vex me, while thy trials lay me low;  
And when Satan comes to tempt me, to that secret place I go,**

**Would you like to know the sweetness of the secret of the Lord?  
Go and hide beneath His shadow: this shall then be your reward;  
And whene'er you leave the silence of that happy meeting place,  
You will surely bear the image of the Master in your face,**

- **Do I know that I know that He dwells within?**
- **Do I know Christ in me the hope of glory, the sure down payment of heaven to come?**

## **CONCLUSION:**

**Oh how we need faith in these days, for this life.**

- **Like Jesus our kingdom is not of this world.**
- **To live as strangers and foreigners as pilgrims and sojourners now.**
- **We must be strengthened and know the Christ within.**
- **Be not conformed to this world. Rom. 12:1-2**
- **To know we are ok, that we are on the winning side, and there waits for us in glory and victors crown.**