

EPHESIANS 3:14-21 PAUL'S LADDER OF PRAYER PART 2

INTRO:

"For the Reason." Vs. 1& 14

- Because the mystery has been opened. VS 3, 4, 6, 9,
- The mystery is being fulfilled, Jew and Gentile in Christ.
- Paul having received the ministry of reconciling the Gentiles to God.
- 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.

THE LADDER OF PRAYER: Read 14-21

- 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.
- This prayer is not a dream it is a promise an invitation.
- Standing on each rung/step until we have met with God the Holy Spirit and received through Him, the answer of the prayer.
- 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 ladder, "TO BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULNESS OF CHRIST."
- The prayer is such an expression of God's heart for us, which, if it had not been dictated to Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, one would condemn it as blasphemy or heresy or an over emphasis and emotional exaggeration, but is not, it is God's promise to each believer.
- To read this passage and look to ourselves is despair, to read this passage and look to Him who is able, is everlasting comfort and hope.

- **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.**

We have 6 rungs to climb.

- 1) Rung #1, "To be strengthened."**
- 2) Rung #2, "For Christ to 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.**
- **Whatever is coming in the grant it is according to the riches of His glory. The scale of the riches of all that He is. Attributes, character, nature.**
- **To be strengthened. To be made strong.**
 - **strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy. Col. 1:11**
- **With might by His Spirit in the inner man. The seat of our will.**
 - **The Holy Spirit of Pentecost.**
- **Not a surface work, a heart and life changing work.**
- **What do we need strength for?**

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

- **Dwell: To settle down, to reside permanently.**
- **Dwell not as a guest but as Master.**
 - **1 Peter. 3:15; but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts,**
- **Notice, by faith. We don't always feel His presence or trust His leading.**
- **Sometimes we have to choose faith.**
- **The just shall live by faith.**
- **To know Christ in me the hope of glory, the sure down payment of heaven to come?**

3) Rung #3, "To be rooted and grounded in love." VS. 17

- **Rooted**: to cause to take root, in the sense of being firmly planted, or established. to strengthen with roots, to render firm, anchored.
 - Col. 2:7; rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.
- **Grounded**: to lay a foundation. To make stable.
 - Col. 1:23; if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel
- **IN LOVE**:
- Our roots going deep and feeding from the love of God, His love is our nourishment and growth.
- And if His love is that which feeds souls, that which we thrive in and grow, should not our life expressions be lovely?
- If the love of God is our and nourishment our pasture, should we/I not be filled with this love?
- If His love is my place of communion and experience, where I am rooted and grounded in, I should be filled with His love. My actions, reactions, interactions and expressions should they not be love?
- This is a love that is worked out among the saints, one for another.
 - John 13:34, 35; A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - Eph. 4:1-3; I therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to *and* beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the [divine] calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God’s service, ² Living as becomes you] with complete lowliness of mind (humility) and meekness (unselfishness, gentleness, mildness), with patience, bearing with one another *and* making allowances because you love one another. ³ Be eager *and* strive earnestly to guard *and* keep the harmony *and* oneness of [and produced by] the Spirit in the binding power of peace. (Amp.)
- We need to be strengthened.