

EPHESIANS 3:14-21 PAUL'S LADDER OF PRAYER PART 4

INTRO:

- **THE LADDER OF PRAYER:** Outside of the prayers of Jesus, no other prayer reaches to these glorious heights, no other prayer reaches to the breath, length, depth, and heights of the Christian life in God. **Read 14-21**

We have 6 rungs to climb.

- 1) Rung #1, "To be strengthened." VS. 16
- 2) Rung #2, "to have Christ dwell in our hearts." VS. 17a
- 3) Rung #3, "To be rooted and grounded in love." VS. 17b
- 4) Rung #4, "To receive Divine Comprehension of God." VS. 18
- 5) Rung #5, "To know the Love of God." VS. 19a
- 6) Rung #6, "To be filled with all the fullness of God." VS. 19b

4) Rung #4, "To receive Divine Comprehension of God." *may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height.*

- **Comprehend:** "to lay hold of so as to possess as one's own, to appropriate," take possession of.
- I believe Paul is here describing the character, the nature and love of God, especially as it relates to the work and salvation of man.
- **The width:** Oh the width or breadth of the love and salvation of God, how far reaching.
- It is the "whosoever will," reaching to both Jew and Gentile, wealthy or poor, educated or illiterate, strong or feeble, male, female, old and young.
- **The length:**
- This love, that brought salvation down was decreed from eternity. Before the foundation of the world and extends to the trumpet sound and the great shout of the arch angel at Christs return, even into the endless days of eternity.
 - Oh how long is the length of His reach for mans' soul for He has loved His own from everlasting to everlasting. It is eternal. Jer. 31:3,
- **The DEPTH:**
- For our salvation Christ came from His eternal heavenly throne in glory to the filth of the bloody cross.
- He descended from the glories of heaven to the valley of the demon possessed and with the finger of God set men free.
- From unending praise and adoration from the multitude of heavens host to the howl of murderous voices crying "crucify Him, crucify Him.
- Those who sit in the darkest and deepest dungeon, whether actual or of sin, in redemption He has plumbed the depth of man's depravity and He delivers.
 - The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." Mt.4:16

- Christ stooped to the lowest of sinners. As far as man has fallen and disgraced and defaced himself, Jesus went deeper to save.
- He stooped to deliver the leper, the demonized, the desperate, the sick, the sinner and the dead. However deep man sunk, Jesus went deeper to deliver.
- **The HEIGHT:** Though He stooped so low yet He has been exalted infinitely higher.
- As deep as Christ stooped to atone and redeem sinners He ascended exceedingly higher into the heavens.
- From Golgotha's grave to heavens glory and throne.
 - Lift up your heads oh ye gates for the King of glory shall come in. Even into our souls. We have hope, we have the King of salvation.
 - God has exalted Him and given Him a name above all other names that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.
- And in His ascension He lifted redeemed mankind with Him and seated us with Him in heavenly places.
 - Eph. 2:6; and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,
- Is there anything that He could ask of us that we should refuse?

5) **Rung #5 TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST.**

- If, by the Spirit of God, we are experiencing these dimensions of God and His love in our salvation, if we can comprehend these truths in our hearts we will begin to know, comprehend, and experience something of the love of God.
- **To Know:** to come to know, learn to know, to perceive. Do I realize, do I believe that my heavenly Father loves me, for God so loved...
- The greatest need in all the world. The deepest need for every Christian is to know personally the Father's love.
 - Isa. 54:10, Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.
 - Rom. 8:37-39, 1 John 4:9-11, Rom. 5:8, Eph. 2:4, 5, PS. 136: 26 times, Dt. 7:6-7
- To know of a certainty the intentional, unchanging love of God.
- A love that is unearned, unmerited in ourselves, but a love which we must accept, respond to and embrace.
- A love that brought Him from heaven to earth, A love that moved Him to empty Himself of His divine glory and be found in the fashion of a man, a babe,
- This love led Him to a cross, to there stand as our surety, and substitute. To bear our very load of sin and guilt and die with it, bearing it in the deepest sea from which it shall never rise.

- A love that raised Him from the grave and brought Him again to heaven and there to be our representative, seated at the right hand of God, living that we to might live, pleading, interceding for us.
- And this same love draws us to Himself that where He is there we may be also.
- A love so strong that it is written that it pleased the Father to bruise Him.
- A love that is able to keep me content in the midst of all trials or losses. A love that satisfies.. Oh love that will not let me go.
- Regardless of how much I know God loves me, or how deep I feel His love, I can no more love for it exceeds my present knowledge of it. Here we only know in part... There is more, press on.
- This is a love that passes knowledge.
- And why He should love us we cannot tell, it Passes knowledge:
- We bow in humility and wonder at this great love.

- Depth of mercy! Can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear?
Me, the chief of sinners, spare?

I have long withstood His grace:
Long provoked Him to His face;
Would not hearken to His calls;
Grieved Him by a thousand falls.

There for me the Savior stands,
Shows His wounds and spreads His hands:
God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps, but loves me still!

- Passes: Passes/surpasses: "to throw over or beyond" Hyper-bol- o. To transcend. Exceeding
 - Eph. :1:9 & 2:7
- A love that we cannot fathom but must accept by a willing faith.
- From the Fathers side of things it is a love so strong that though He has knowledge that we before He intercepted our sinful selves love us. A love that though He knows of all our sin and failures, past present and future, yet though He knows these things and everything about us, He has still chosen to love us. It passes the knowledge He has of us.
- He gave His love, His beloved Son, in spite of Him knowing our failures, our rejection of Him in selfishness, and our sin. He loves us in spite of ourselves.

CONCLUSION:

- Take time to be holy. Spend time with your bibles and God.
- We have our bibles; we have our knees, USE THEM!