

Rooted and Established in Love

Ephesians 3:14-21

Introduction

I Paul's Attitude In Prayer

- A. Humility and submission
 - 1. Kneeling - Phil 2:10
 - a. Solomon stood - 1 Kin 8:22
 - b. David sat - 1 Chron 17:16
 - c. Jesus fell on His face - Mt 26:39
- B. Acknowledgment of our lineage
 - 1. We derive our origins from God
 - 2. We derive our identity from God

II Paul's Focus In Prayer

- A. That we may be strengthened:
 - 1. The source of our strength:
 - a. God's glorious riches - Eph 1:7-8; Phil 4:19
 - b. The power of the Holy Spirit - Lk 1:35; Acts 1:8
 - 2. The sphere of our strength:
 - a. Our inner being - Col 3:9-10; 2 Cor 4:16
 - 3. The purpose of our strength:
 - a. That Christ may dwell within - Eph 2:22; Rv 3:20
Dwell = "Be completely at home"
- B. That we may know God's love
 - 1. The prerequisite:
 - a. Rooted in love - Col 2:6-7; Rom 5:5
 - b. Established in love - 1 Cor 13; Gal 5:22
 - 2. The pursuit:
 - a. Grasp the love of Christ
 - 1. Width, length, height, and depth - Job 11:7-9
 - b. Know the love of Christ
 - 1. Surpasses knowledge - Phil 4:7
 - 3. The purpose:

- a. To be filled with the fullness of God - Col 2:9-10; Eph 4:13; 5:18

III Paul's Praise In Prayer

- A. Glory to God for His sovereignty
 - 1. He is able
 - a. To exceed our expectations- 1 Kg 3:13; Mal 3:10
- B. Glory to God in and through:
 - 1. The church - Eph 3:10; 2 Th 1:11-12
 - 2. Christ Jesus - Jn 17:4-5
- C. Glory to God:
 - 1. Throughout all generations
 - 2. Forever and ever
 - 3. Amen!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. Share a time when God exceeded your expectations.
2. Consider briefly the different physical positions one might use while praying. What does each communicate? Which do you use most often? Why?
3. Paul prays for you that Christ may dwell ("be completely at home") in your heart. If Christ were to answer, how would He describe His living arrangements in your heart? Motel 6 (cheap and temporary)? A guest in "your home" (you're the boss)? The new owner of your home (He calls all the shots)?
4. God wants you to be filled with His fullness (His love, peace, joy, character, maturity, priorities, etc). Where do you most need His fullness right now?
5. Take a moment and pray Paul's prayer for yourself and then for at least one other person you know.

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