

Ephesians: Our Immeasurable Riches in Christ

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Ephesians 3:14-22

Introduction

Focus Point: "Pray because God is at work in us and is able to answer!"

I. Paul's Purpose

"I bow my knees before the Father" – greater intensity in this prayer than 1:15-23. Paul describes himself as 'bowing my knees' where Jews usually stand to pray.

Kneeling for prayer, though normal for us, was formerly an expression of deep emotion or earnestness. It is also an expression of humility and petition.

Father - Fatherhood describes the most intimate relationship of love, fellowship and of care.

II. Paul's Content

1. he prays that God might strengthen them v. 16

2. he prays that Christ might dwell in their hearts v. 17

3. he prays that they might grasp the incalculable dimensions of Christ's love for them vv. 18-19a
"the love of Christ is broad enough to encompass all mankind, 'long' enough to last for eternity, 'deep' enough to reach the most degraded sinner, and high enough to exalt him to heaven." J. Stott

4. he prays that they may be filled to the fullness of God v. 19b

III. Paul's Praise

The Apostle Paul closes his prayer with praise. He focuses on God's greatness and glory.

a. God's greatness 3:20

b. God's glory 3:21

"God's glory in the church cannot be separated from his glory in Christ Jesus." O'Brien