

Sermon Discussion – 3 March 2024

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

How do you approach prayer in your own life? Do you find certain postures or settings enhance the personal aspect of your prayers?

Observation *Discovering the context*

In this passage, Paul prays for the believers to have a deep understanding of God's power in their lives. Paul's main request is for the Spirit to give strength to the believer to comprehend the incomprehensible love of God. When His love is planted in our hearts, we can grow to maturity.

- We enter a relationship with Christ by faith; we are "in Christ." What does Christ's indwelling mean? *Hint: Look up Galatians 2:20 and 2 Corinthians 13:5.*
- Part of Paul's prayer is that the believers may be filled with all the fullness of God. What is the fulfilment God intends for man in Ephesians 4:13? *Hint: How is maturity measured?*

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. Reflect on the idea that Jesus desires to dwell in our hearts continually, not just as a temporary residence. How does the metaphor of a home renovation resonate with your understanding of the Christian life? Share instances where you've sensed God working on specific areas of your life.
2. Consider Paul's yearning for believers to deeply know the love of God. How can knowledge about God's love transition into a passionate, experiential understanding? Share personal experiences where you've felt the profound love of God in your life.
3. Discuss the concept of expecting God to work in response to prayer, as highlighted in Ephesians 3:20. How does an expectation of God's power influence your prayer life?
4. Read v. 21. How can our individual and collective prayer lives reflect God's glory? In what ways can the church collectively reveal the glory of God through prayer and worship?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

We've read how Paul concludes with an impassioned outpouring of praise in a doxology (Ephesians 3:20-21). God's power is again highlighted in this conclusion. Do we underestimate the power at work within us?

An old hymn illustrates this concept. As you read through the hymn, reflect on whether you put limits on God's love for you.

The Love of God Is Greater Far

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell.
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;

To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.

Words & Music by Frederick Martin Lehman (1868-1953).