

Be Rooted (Week 7)

Ephesians 3:14-21

March 26, 2023

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ²¹to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason – looking back: be a good steward of the Gospel, don't lose hope and have boldness and confidence...for this reason!

Paul in our passage today offers a prayer that he had and most likely continued to pray for the church in Ephesus. He shares it with them so they know, can be encouraged and so they can join in the prayer and God working in them!

“Too many of our prayers focus only on physical and material needs and fail to lay hold of the deeper inner needs of the heart. It would do us good to use these prison prayers as our own, and ask God to help us in our inner person. That is where the greatest needs are.”¹

Paul didn't know how long he would be in prison, if he would get out, or even if he would die in there, so this is how he prayed and what he passed on.

It is through prayer that we lay hold of God's riches that enable us to behave like Christians and battle like Christians.

In his prayer Paul offers four requests, if you will; like a telescope, one requests lead to the next one and so on.

Strength (v.16)

“...when the Holy Spirit comes on you;” Acts 1:8

“If God took the Holy Spirit out of this world, most of what we Christians are doing would go right on – and nobody would know the difference.”²

According to His riches – if I am a billionaire and I give you 10 dollars I have given “out” of my riches, but if I give you a million dollars I have given according to my riches.

The power is not us, but rather in us, His power. It's not our power or might, but as Paul says in Colossians 1:27, it's Christ in us, the Hope of Glory.

Depth (v.17)

¹ Warren Wiersbe – BE Series

² Ibid.

Three verbs – dwell, **rooted** and grounded.

Dwell - “to settle down and feel at home” ~ Kenneth Wuest. In the south we would say, “kick off your shoes and stay a while.”

Rooted – deep roots, nourishment and stability

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. **Psalm 1:1-3**

Grounded – architectural term, foundation upon what we build.

If you don't go deep you can't go high. In being grounded when the storms come, in Christ we can continue on and endure.

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” **Matthew 7:24-27**

Comprehend (vs.18-19a)

“to grasp” stem from apprehend and comprehend

To comprehend is to grasp mentally and to apprehend is to lay hold of it yourself. It is possible therefore to understand something, but not make it your own.

Fullness (v. 19b)

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,. **Ephesians 5:18**

When you were saved you and I received all of the Lord. The question is, are we enjoying all of who He is, are we walking in the fullness of Christ?

Benediction (vs.20-21)

Prayer Focus:

- **I would pray this for myself and others!**
- **I would be challenged to truly enjoy the fullness of the Lord.**
- **Am I putting myself in a position, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to walk with Christ while encouraging other?**