

What We Need Most – Ephesians 3:14-21

- 1) What is it that you feel like you need most right now? In other words, if you were to say, “if I just had _____, I would be better” – what fills in that blank?
- 2) Thinking back to past things you have this way about, how did it turn out when you did get that thing?

Our passage is a prayer asking God to give His church what she most needs: a true grasp on the love of God that is theirs in Christ:

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every the whole family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Paul first frames this request through the lens of power, something that dominated Ephesian life. Paul asks that they would be filled with a better power – the very presence of Jesus through his Spirit. That power had the effect of rooting and grounding them in God’s love for them.

- 3) The Ephesians sought power in the spiritual realm through magic; what ways do we seek power and seek to control or influence ourselves or our circumstances? What is the danger in this?
- 4) The power Paul prays for (the indwelling of Jesus) roots and grounds us in the love of God for us. What does that mean and why is it such a big deal?

Knowledge was also a big deal in Ephesus. Personal secret knowledge was a way to access power and a way to stay a step ahead of others. Paul prayed for a very specific type of knowledge to be shared by the whole church – knowledge of the love of God.

- 5) Paul prays that they would “have strength to know” – why do we need help from outside ourselves to grasp the love of Jesus?
- 6) What is it important that we understand the love of Christ “with all the saints”?

When we start to grasp the love of God for us in Christ, it can be hard to believe that something this good can belong to people like us. So he closes with a praise to God that reminds us of what He can do and will accomplish.

- 7) Paul reminds us that God is more capable than we can imagine and that he is using that power to glorify himself in the church. How does this comfort and assure us?
- 8) What does this passage teach us about doing life together as the church? How does it inform the way we comfort, encourage, and care for each other?

Other things to pray about:

- Echo Paul’s prayer for our church!
- What can we praise God for?
- What sin do you need to confess?
- What cares or burdens can we help carry?