

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS' SPIRITUAL MATURATION (Ephesians 3:14-21)

I. INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

II. THE BELIEVER'S POSITION IN CHRIST (1:3-3:21)

A. God's Mysterious Plan Revealed in this Dispensation (3:1-13)

B. Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians and His Praise to God (3:14-21)

1. The Apostle's Approach to His Prayer (vv. 14-15)

- a. The phrase, "*for this reason*" reaches back to 3:1 where Paul's _____ intent to pray was "_____ " by more _____ regarding the mystery of the Church. (v. 14a)
- b. This time, the apostle proceeded with his prayer; his posture of "_____ " while praying must have surprised the Roman guard he was chained to, but it reflected his _____ towards his heavenly Father. (v. 14b)
- c. Verse 15 is _____ saying that God the Father is the father of all the angels in heaven and all the families of the earth; but rather, that He is the _____ of fatherhood from which the title "*father*" _____. (v. 15)

2. The Apostle's Appeal in His Prayer (vv. 16-19)

- a. As Paul knelt before his Divine Father, he asked for several specific requests (one leading into another) regarding the Ephesian believer's spiritual maturation...
 - 1) Out of God's unlimited resources he first asked that these saints would be "*strengthened with might*" (Philip. 4:13) in the _____ by the only possible means- the indwelling _____. (v. 16, cf. 2 Cor. 4:16-17; Gal. 5:16-17; Philip. 1:19)
 - 2) A second thing Paul prayed for was that Christ would actually "_____ at _____ " in their hearts and minds through a personal _____ of _____. (v. 17a)

3) For his third request he asked that these Christians- after being “*rooted*” like a _____ or “*grounded*” like the _____ of a building- that both of these expressions should find fulfilment in the agape _____ of Christ. (v. 17b)

4) Thinking about the love of Christ caused the apostle to _____ on his request for these Ephesians to actually _____ “*the width and length and depth and height*” of His unconditional, _____ love. (v. 18)

5) Paul also prayed that they would come to “*know*” (Gr *ginōskō*) _____ the agape of Christ, which _____ human knowledge. (v. 19a, cf. 1 Cor. 8:1; 13:2)

b. His reason for praying for such things is expressed in the *hina* purpose clause, “*that you may be filled;*” the _____ of our fullness is the Holy Spirit (5:18; Gal. 5:16-17), and the _____ of our fullness is God Himself. (v. 19b)

3. The Apostle’s Acknowledgement of Praise in His Prayer (vv. 20-21)

a. Paul closes his petition by acknowledging the power of the Holy Spirit _____ - a “Power” which can do _____ more than Paul could ever ask, and _____ more than even his imposing imagination could possibly conceive. (v. 20)

b. God is willing to share His _____ with us in order that it would _____ Him in His Universal Church, expressed in the _____ of Christ who made the union of Jewish and Gentile believers possible. (v. 21)

* What can you personally apply from this passage today?