

Ephesians 3.14-19

Addiction Breaking and Bending Adoration

WORSHIP >> Bring your HEART before GOD – Celebrate, Confess, Commit

Lyrics REMIND you of GOSPEL > EXPAND your Heart and Mind

BATTLE - Some had GREAT STRUGGLE since Seen Happy Face last Sunday

Some got BAD NEWS – Family, Finance, Health > SLEEPLESS Nights

Some had MONKEY on your BACK – Doubts, Depression, Fears

Some FELL this Week – AGAIN! – Sexually, Anger, Drinking, Drugs

More People, More Problems! – Church Hospital for Sinners

MANY Churches – MANY More Problems – Imagine Paul’s BURDEN

APOSTLE for Gentiles – Founder of Many Churches – Trained Leaders

BOUND in Roman Prison – Over 4 yrs of Imprisonment – Anxious Separation

Paul: “there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches”

2 Corinthians 11.28

As Paul PRAYED for his BELOVED Spiritual Children > Many NEEDS

So and so needs to do this – She should go here – He should not forget this...

Reminded of his OWN POWERLESSNESS to Help > God’s POWER

Reminded of OWN POVERTY to Supply them > God’s RICHES

MOST Important PRAYER – Most URGENT Need – HEARTS with GOD

1. Heart Explained

a. Love Center? Heart > Fluttering Romance Organ > LOVE ZONE!

HEART for us Moderns is LOVE ORGAN – FUZZY Feelings of ROMANCE

We are in CONFLICT between our FEELINGS and our INTELLECT

NO Bible Verses to Support This Idea > Bible teaches JUST OPPOSITE

Still Commonly Thought: “how could something so wrong feel so right?”

MANY People – Many Xtians – EMOTIONS Most Reliable Source of Guidance
 CONFUSION Reason Paul prayed – “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened,
 that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you” Ephesians 1.18

b. Life Center!

HEARTS does PRODUCE Emotions, More Fundamental puts TRUST in Things
 Trust in the Lord with all your heart Proverbs 3.5

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. Proverbs 23.26

But BIBLE talks about THINKING and ACTING with our HEARTS
 HEART is CONTROL CENTER of MIND, WILL, and EMOTIONS
 CENTER of HUMAN Personality – Bible > HEART: Who we REALLY Are

BIBLE has NO CONFLICT between HEAD & HEART > Perfectly JOINED

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6.21

Whatever captures the heart’s trust and love also controls the feelings and
 behavior. What the heart most wants the mind finds most reasonable, the
 emotions find valuable, and the will finds doable. Tim Keller

2. Heart Exchanged

“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but
 the Lord looks on the heart.” 1 Samuel 16.7

GOD’S View of the HEART – FAR DIFFERENT than our IDEAS

Therefore – Our ONLY HOPE before God is GETTING a NEW HEART

I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will
 remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I
 will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be
 careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36.26,27

a. Falling before the Sovereign

PAUL was PREACHER and PASTOR – AND a PRIEST to Lift them to GOD

His PRAYERS are found throughout his WRITINGS

Letter to Ephesians > Ministry = INSTRUCTION and INTERCESSION

Paul returns from MUSING about God's Mystery in Christ vs. 2-13

Don't worry it was HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED Senior Moment

Ephesians – Church of God in All Places thru All Time – Needs to Know

All Peoples welcome into Family of God thru Savior & God Jesus Christ

Common POSTURE for Jews in Prayer was STANDING

TIMES of Great URGENCY or NEED > KNEELED – Jesus in Gethsemane

He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me..." And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22.42-44

v. 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father

Paul KNEELS with FERVENCY before the Lord of Heaven > URGENT Prayer
Bound in PRISON – Paul can't Touch his Beloved Church – but GOD CAN!

1000 yrs BEFORE King SOLOMON fell to his KNEES before GOD of Israel

AMAZING Moment when God FILLED Temple made by Man with His Glory

Then Solomon...knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven, and said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart..."

2 Chronicles 6.12-14

Seeing this NEW Temple God was building with Jew & Gentile Living Stones

Paul FALLS on his Knees before the God who has made a NEW Covenant in X

b. Family with all the Saints

v. 15 the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named

The FATHER of ALL FATHERHOOD

ARCHETYPAL Father: There are Fathers because God is Source of Fatherhood

ALL People know God the CREATOR as FATHER

Must be BORN AGAIN to FOREVER KNOW God and Father of our Lord Jesus

DEITY is our DAD > Lord's Prayer: OUR FATHER > who Fills the Heavens

WHOLE Church: Heaven & Earth – Militant & Triumphant – All Nations / Time

v. 12 “In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”

Paul PRAYS with Great HUMILITY & BOLDNESS in the Name of Jesus Christ

3. Heart Enlarged

“Prayer is asking God for what He has already promised.” Martin Luther

Paul going to ASK God to DO Very Things He has PROMISED to Do in US!

a. Riches from the Father Paul has DECLARED these Ephesians RICH

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us Ephesians 1.7,8

that you may know...what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints
Ephesians 1.18

v. 16 according to the riches of his glory

TEMPLE OF GODDESS Artemis or Diana in Ephesus

ONE of 7 Wonders of World / Filled with Wealth

Filled with some of Greatest Treasures of Art in Ancient World

TEMPLE WAS THE CENTRAL BANK OF ASIA MINOR
ALL THE RICHES OF PEOPLE IN AREA CAME FROM THERE

HOW did poor Xtians FEEL SURROUNDED by THESE RICHES?

No SHRINE dedicated to Jesus / No Cathedral of St. Paul / Not even STATUE
Meetings were in Homes and Halls – Could NOT hire the Ephesus Hilton

Yet Paul declares they Are RICH – Christ Followers NOT 2nd class Citizens
“the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ
Jesus”
Ephesians 2.7

ALL BLESSINGS COME FROM THE TEMPLE OF GOD – JESUS

the unsearchable riches of Christ
Ephesians 3.8

There is a difference between having an opinion that God is holy and gracious,
and having a sense of the loveliness and beauty of that holiness and grace. There
is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet and
having a sense of its sweetness.
Jonathan Edwards

b. Power from the Spirit

v. 16 he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your
inner being

The heart loves most what it trusts the most. What we need is to trust Christ more
as we know His love and it is spiritually real to us, which Paul says here can only
happen through power from the Holy Spirit.
ZGC Study Notes

the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the
working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the
dead
Ephesians 1.19,20

even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
Ephesians 2.5,6

Christ is not to be viewed from afar by faith but received by the embrace of our minds, so that he may dwell in us, and so it is that we are filled with the Spirit of God.
John Calvin

Paul prays we will KNOW Greater Power so we will have GREATER LOVE

We DO what we LOVE TO DO

We will ONLY and ALWAYS Do what we LOVE TO DO

GREATER LOVE will bring GREATER POWER

Only OVERWHELMING Affection for Christ can give OVERCOMING Power

CONFESS Openly to God – We DO NOT Love Him ENOUGH

CELEBRATE and Praise God > HE LOVES US MORE! We are IN the Beloved

The secret of holiness is heart-occupation with Christ. As we gaze upon him we become like him... Then the things of the flesh will shrivel up and disappear and the things of the Spirit will become supreme in your life. Harry Ironsides

c. Faith from the Son

POWER over SIN does NOT Come from US – Our Affection cannot Achieve It

ONLY Hope for SANCTIFICATION comes thru Him who SAVED US!

v. 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

NAKED People on your Computer – DRINK in your Hand – MONEY in Wallet

Stronger GRIP on our Hearts than a GOD found in Pages of ANCIENT BOOK

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God
Ephesians 2.8

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Proverbs 4.23

What is objectively true of Christians isn't automatically subjectively true...
 There are many things Christians know but they don't really know. They know
 these things in part, but they haven't grasped them with the heart and had the
 imagination so captured that it has changed them thoroughly from the inside out.

Tim Keller

Without God's riches we are poor

Without God's Spirit we are helpless

Without Christ's life we are dead

d. Grasping Unlimitable Love

GOD MAKES ONE NEW MAN in CHRIST- "kainos" - NEW QUALITY

Not just a matter of turning Gentiles into Jews - or vice versa

NEW HUMANITY - NEW QUALITY OF LOVE AND LIFE - CHURCH

"As if God melted down a statue of silver and a statue of lead, and they both
 came out gold" Chrysostom

v. 17-19 that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to
 comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and
 depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

ROOTED in JESUS the VINE / GROUNDED in CHRIST our ROCK

LOVE beyond LIMITS of our MIND – Greater what IMAGINE or THINK

COMPREHEND with ALL the SAINTS – We will LEARN it Together

Friday Night as I was Working on Sermon – Got this Email from Friends in KZ

Christian Workers – Members of church I pastored in Almaty

House BURNED Down while in States – Then FLOOD Took what REMAINED

Returned to KZ Found All Earthly Goods GONE! But God RESUPPLIED...

In the midst of significant challenge, God continues to reveal His goodness, the
 depth and height and breadth of His love. And nothing we can own, purchase, or
 lose to fire and flood can compare!

Letter from Christian workers in Kazakhstan whose home was burned down,
 then flooded! October 16, 2015

God's love for his people is as long as eternity past, so wide as to include all nations, so high as to ring praises from angels in heaven, and so deep as to cancel the claims of hell on our soul.
Bryan Chapell

No matter what STAGE of Life you are in GIVE YOUR HEART to God
 NEW BELIEVER – God is making your HEART NEW – Old Passing Away
 PARENT – Need to show your KIDS you LOVE God with your Heart
 Following Christ is NOT LIST of Do's & Don'ts – Kids > Heartless Hypocrites
 MINISTRY > Not just Numbers in Church / Small Group > People LOVE Jesus
 MODEL to Others Not just RELIGION > Loving RELATIONSHIP with GOD

“Love never fails.”

1 Corinthians 13.8

d. Filled with the Fullness of God

IMAGINE that Each PETITION of this PRAYER is Like Step UP to GOD
 STRUGGLE up each NEW Level of HEAVENLY STAIRCASE

the riches of his glory

power through his Spirit in your inner being

Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

being rooted and grounded in love

strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and
 height and depth

to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

NOW WE COME TO TOP STEP of HEAVENLY STAIRCASE...

v. 19 that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

STEP into INFINITY of ETERNAL GRACE

Overwhelming as the petition may be, Paul is praying that we (and all other Christians) may be filled up to all the fullness that is in God himself...an infinite thing. But we will have all eternity (an infinite time) to be so filled. I think Paul is praying that we will be filled and filled and filled and filled and filled and filled and filled – and so on forever, as God out of his infinite resources increasingly pours himself into those sinful but now redeemed creatures he has rescued through the work of Christ.

James Boice

“keep on being filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5.18

Jesus: "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." John 14.23

“Yes, I know Jesus loves me, he saved me, he’s going to take me to heaven – but what good is that when no boy at school will even look at you?”

16 year old American girl

KNOWLEDGE of God brought NO Practical COMFORT or HOPE to her Heart
Jonathan Edwards – She had OPINION Jesus loved her, but did NOT KNOW it
Christ’s Love was DISTANT ABSTRACTION – Compared to TRUE Desires

People do precisely what they love, and until they have a greater love for the things of God than the things of this world, they will not be able to stop.

Bryan Chapell

BECAUSE OF CROSS AND RESURRECTION - TRUE TEMPLE BUILT

Jesus teaches that NOW HE IS THE TEMPLE - Fullness of Glory of God

Now by the Spirit we dwell in Him - and His Spirit dwells in Us

MODERN COMPLAINT “I cannot seem to get it together”

Vain Effort - We’ll only do so when we are placed where God designs

HE IS THE MASTER-BUILDER - CRAFTSMAN OF HIS CHURCH

THE PLACE FILLED WITH THE GLORY-SPIRIT OF GOD

GOD TAKES DEAD SINNERS - MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST
JEW AND GENTILE - RECONCILED INTO ONE NEW MAN
WE BECOME THE VESSELS of HONOR in HIS PRESENCE

Paul: “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight”
Philippians 1.9

Ephesians 3.¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,¹⁵ from whom every 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.